

Submission No: 334

Date Received: 5-8-03

Secretary: RECEIVED

CHILD CUSTODY & CHILD SUPPORT REVIEW BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

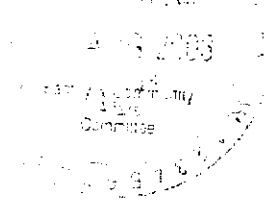
AUTHOR: PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS

PAYERS: SON & WIFE

PAYEE: NATURAL MOTHER OF CHILD

CHILD: MALE AGED 12 YEARS

CUSTODY: In full time care of mother, part of family unit comprising:



POINT 1-

We make no moral judgement on the person who has been partially responsible for the above. During the early child support payment period we assisted our son to meet his commitments.

POINT 2 -

After years of struggling he is now married and at present feels unable to start his own family due to the fact that -

18% of his GROSS INCOME is paid to this "other" family unit.

He would not be able to support his wife and any subsequent children on one wage. The harder he works at present eg. Overtime/addition job, the more funds are diverted to this "other" family unit.

POINT 3-

He and the payee cannot negotiate a private agreement because of additional family payment entitlement( due to the fact that there are a total of 4 children in the family unit.) If the qualifying child was the only child in this family. the earnings of both mother and father would prevent entitlement to additional family payment.

POINT 4-

Should he wish to apply for a reduction in his child support payments for any valid reason, he is required to declare in a full and detailed manner how his income is expended. Under the present legislation, the payee(custodian and child's mother) does not have to be accountable in any manner or from of the amount paid as child support.



POINT 6 -

All monies spent as a means of keeping in contact with his child, eg. Telephone calls, travelling costs and costs of visits are in addition to the 18% already paid. We, the child's grandparents attempt to have contact with him by way of weekend visits, holiday trips and purchase of basic clothes (shoes, warm clothes etc), and this does stretch our budget as pensioners.

Our extended family endeavour to assist our son and it appears that we will have to make further sacrifices to enable he and his wife to choose to have children of their own. We all feel as if a child has been 'stolen' from us.

OUTCOMES

We humbly suggest that the 18% rate of child support payment be reviewed, and that a father's right to know and raise his son be respected. Each case should be judged on its particular circumstances, please look at the BIG PICTURE

Signed:

  
LESTER SINCLAIR SMITH

  
CLAUDETTE MARILYN SMITH

31/5/03

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