

Committee Secretary
 Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
 Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
 Department of the House of Representatives
 Parliament House
 Canberra ACT 2600

Department of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:	1081
Date Received:	8-8-03
Secretary:	

Hello my name is [REDACTED] and this is my submission.
 I am also faxing [REDACTED] submission to you.

I don't think that the existing child support formula works fairly for anyone unfortunate enough to be in these circumstances. Each case of separation should be addressed individually to see who should care for the child/ren, not automatically go to the mother, who then is entitled to Legal Aid. Most times they then out of spite, refuse the father access. The father is not entitled to Legal Aid and has to enlist a solicitor for help. Average working male cannot afford this. Court should order that they remain in contact with all family members, grandparents etc. The government has made it far too easy for couples to separate, before they do compulsory counselling should be introduced. If an irreparable separation, consideration of the child/ren's best interest should be made. Maybe introduce a program to High School Students, incorporated into the Sex Education program, what will happen in the circumstances of an unwanted pregnancy and how it will financially ruin a young mans life, before it's even begun. The governments system makes it far too easy for women to deliberately have children, with no intention to have the father there. they know that they'll get money either way, very unfair to the male and the child, especially when they find out thier origins. The majority of these children unfortunately end up being juvenile delinquents, we've all seen it happen, what sort of moral upbringing are they receiving, So the cycle begins!

The introduction of the Child Support Agency is one of the worst decisions the government has made. I think it has directly contributed to violence, unemployment, suicide and women voluntarily staying on the pension/benefits because they would they look for work themselves and

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take responsibility for their actions and child/ren when it's so easy to get money for nothing. Make them get out and get a job, doesn't the government provide subsidised child care as well? There is no reason they can't be self-supportive. I personally know of two males that have ended their lives over the futility and frustration of trying to start again. The majority of the time it is the male that is left to start again. The dealings they then have to endure with CSA personnel is very humiliating, not to mention the daunting amount of paperwork and forms that the average person can't understand, let alone fill out. I don't blame some of them for just giving up. There are always three sides of the story.

My own circumstances include my now fiancée's first partner whom they both agreed to have a child out of wedlock. Ten years later they separated amicably, they were sharing custody responsibilities until my fiancée, twelve months later became involved with someone else, suddenly all visits stopped, presents sent back smashed - a child would not do this. and my fiancée trying to see his daughter since. The mother gets legal aid, even though her income is more than twice my partner's. He's not entitled to Legal Aid and we can't afford the services of a solicitor. This woman reassesses my fiancée every six months and has sworn to break him. In the second circumstance my fiancée had a drunken one night stand. We've all done it, it was consensual sex, wearing protection, the condom broke, resulting in a totally unwanted pregnancy on his behalf. There was no love or partnership here and in this day and age no thirty-six year old woman gets pregnant without wanting to. She informed my fiancée she might be pregnant to him when she was three months along and he promptly offered her alternative solutions, if it was his. She knew the situation and selfishly chose to have the child knowing it will never have its real father or male role model in its life. He has since started a new life with me. Then I called this woman after the child was born and

child knowing it will never have its real father or male role model in its life. He has since started a new life with me. When I called this woman after the child was born, and my partner had to go through the DNA process, which we had to pay \$451.00 for because the test came back positive, to talk to her about what was going on, she blatantly laughed at me and promptly told me there were plenty of single mothers out there and she didn't want

my partner in the child's life and she only wants money. Imagine the turmoil that my partner and I are living with now. In this circumstance the woman is not thinking of her child's welfare, only how much money she is going to get. The financial burden should be her own responsibility not my fiancé's as he's an unwilling contributor here that had no choice whatever in the matter. She made all the choices, maybe the child could have been adopted, there are plenty of loving couples who can't have children.

Now my partner has to pay nearly one third of his wage to child support, one he gladly pays for even though he can't see his daughter, the other one is totally unjust and now my fiancé and I are struggling to stay alive, we're trying to save to get married and have our own family, but everytime my partner makes any extra money, the CSA keep taking it away. There has to be a cut off point. It is very frustrating and stressful to know you are being treated unjustly and nothing can be done. Why isn't CSA based on a 40 hour week, when most time's overtime is done just to survive, what incentive is this. Abolish the CSA and start to be more just to all concerned. Unfortunately this is what's going on in the reality world.

Thank you, sincerely yours