

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

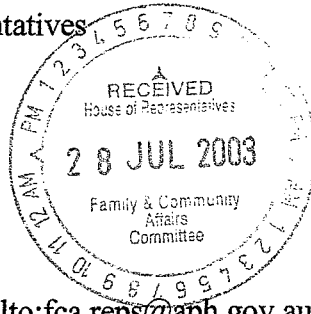
Submission No: 35

Date Received: 28-7-03

Secretary: .....

**From:** Gordon, Glen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 July 2003 9:26 AM  
**To:** Committee, FCA (REPS)  
**Subject:** Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposals to increase joint residency arrangements for children in separated families. This is a proposal that is long overdue. It has great merit in that it will strengthen the opportunity for good relationships between both parents and their children. Conflict between parents is maximised in the current family system for the simple reason that "the winner takes all".

There is no incentive in current family law practice for cooperation between parents. Present family law practice punishes the parent with the least amount of residency with the children. Almost inevitably it is fathers who are on the receiving end of this harsh treatment.

My own personal experiences are reflected in the legal advice that I received on separation of "forget it, you are the father and the courts will always side with the mother". I thought that this was an appalling approach giving no consideration for the past relationships and bonds that I had forged with my children.

I look forward to the development of a family law system that recognises the importance of fathers in their children's lives.

Glen Gordon  
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28 July 2003.