



FASIMILIE MESSAGE

TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON FAMILY AND  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.  
CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY

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## CUSTODY

SHARED CUSTODY SHOULD BE MADE MANDATORY THROUGH FAMILY COURT - UNLESS ONE PARENT CAN PROVE (NOT LIES AND INUENDO)

THE OTHER IS AN UNFIT PARENT BECAUSE OF ABUSE OF THE CHILDREN. IF PARENTS KNEW THIS WAS THE CASE THE COURTS AND LEGAL SYSTEM WOULD BE SAVED SUCH A HUGE WORKLOAD AND EXPENSE.

FATHERS HAVE VERY FEW RIGHTS AND LITTLE RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN CHILDREN'S LIVES AND IT IS PRESUMED (OFTEN WRONGLY) THAT THE MOTHER IS THE BETTER PARENT.

EVEN IF THERE IS A COURT ORDER IN PLACE ~~FAR~~ CONTACT

THE CUSTODIAL PARENT CAN BREAK THE ORDER AND THERE IS PRACTICALLY NOTHING YOU CAN DO. THE STATE POLICE CAN'T ENFORCE A FAMILY COURT ORDER AND HOW CAN THE FEDERAL POLICE BE CONTACTED. ONLY THROUGH A SOLICITOR.

I KNOW OF ONE FATHER WHO HAD TO SELL HIS HOUSE TO PAY OVER \$20,000 TO GET CUSTODY OF HIS CHILDREN FROM A MOTHER WHO WAS A DRUG ADDICT WITH A POLICE RECORD. - SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN GRANTED LEGAL AID FOR HER COSTS.

IF A FATHER IS GRANTED CUSTODY HE HAS TO UNDERGO PSYCHIATRIC TESTS, INSPECTION OF HIS HOME AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDCARE - YET THE MOTHER IS AUTOMATICALLY GIVEN CUSTODY

IN MOST CASES THE MOTHER TAKES THE CHILDREN - REGARDLESS OF WHO LEAVES THE RELATIONSHIP - SHE THEN GOES ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND IS IMMEDIATELY ENTITLED TO LEGAL AID - WHICH THEN PAYS FOR HER LEGAL FEES TO TRY TO STOP THE FATHER HAVING CONTACT WITH OR CUSTODY OF HIS CHILDREN. UNLESS HE CAN

## CHILD SUPPORT

I FIRMLY BELIEVE NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS SHOULD HELP SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN BUT JOINT CUSTODY WOULD DO AWAY WITH A LOT OF THESE PROBLEMS.

THE REC PITANTS OF SUPPORTING PARENT PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE EARN THEIR PAYMENTS ONCE THE YOUNGEST CHILD STARTS SCHOOL.

CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS SHOULD BE CALCULATED ON AFTER TAX INCOME - NOT GROSS, PARENTS PAYING CHILD SUPPORT - USUALLY FATHERS - WHO ONLY EARN A BASIC WAGE ARE LEFT LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE. IF THEY TAKE ON OVERTIME OR A SECOND JOB TO TRY TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT THEY ARE THEN TAXED EXTRA AND HAVE TO PAY MORE CHILD SUPPORT. THE CUSTODIAL PARENT CAN EARN \$33,000 BEFORE THEIR INCOME IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT OR IF THEY RECEIVE CENTRELINK PAYMENTS THEY HAVE A TAX FREE INCOME PLUS CHILD SUPPORT.

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I KNOW OF NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS PAYING LARGE CHILD SUPPORT - \$350 PW - AND THE CHILDREN STILL NOT HAVING SCHOOL BOOK - ETC.

CHILD SUPPORT AUTHORITY SHOULD WORK MORE FLEXIBLE HOURS AS PAYEES WHO WORK FIND IT DIFFICULT TO HAVE CONTACT DURING WORK HOURS - AS IT CAN BE A VERY LONG AND COMPLICATED PROCESS

LEGAL AID.

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THE WHOLE LEGAL AID SYSTEM NEEDS AN OVERHAUL  
MOST CUSTODIAL PARENTS - USUALLY MOTHERS - IMMEDIATELY GO ON  
CENTRE-LINK PAYMENTS WHEN A RELATIONSHIP BREAKS DOWN.  
THEY ARE THEN IMMEDIATELY ENTITLED TO LEGAL AID  
LEGAL AID THEN FINANCES THEM TO ENFORCE RESTRAINING ORDERS  
AND TRY TO STOP THE OTHER PARENT HAVING CONTACT WITH THE  
CHILDREN. IF THE NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT HAS THE DECENCY TO STILL BE  
WORKING THEY THEN HAVE TO PAY A FORTUNE TO TRY TO HAVE CONTACT  
WITH THEIR CHILDREN. IF THE ONE RECEIVING LEGAL AID WON'T COME TO  
AN AGREEMENT AT MEDIATION STAGE THEY SHOULD BE MADE PAY THEIR  
OWN LEGAL FEES.

IF THEY BREAK THE COURT ORDER THEY SHOULD BE MADE REPAY  
LEGAL AID. THE TAX PAYER HAS TO FINANCE THIS AND THE PRIVILEGE  
IS BEING FLAUNTED.

IT COST MY SON \$7,000 FOR A COURT ORDER FOR CONTACT WITH HIS  
CHILDREN. SHE HAS NOW BROKEN THE COURT ORDER AND THERE IS  
NOTHING HE CAN DO BUT GO BACK TO COURT.  
HE HAS A \$7,000 COURT ORDER THAT ISN'T WORTH THE PAPER IT IS  
WRITTEN ON. STATE POLICE CAN'T ENFORCE A FAMILY COURT ORDER AND  
A SOLICITOR HAS TO CONTACT FEDERAL POLICE. - MORE MONEY!!  
RESTRAINING OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS.

A PERSON - USUALLY THE MOTHER - CAN TAKE OUT A RESTRAINING  
ORDER WITHOUT HAVING TO PRODUCE ONE IOTA OF EVIDENCE  
ONCE AGAIN LEGAL AID PAYS HER COSTS YET - UNLESS THE RECEIPTANT  
CAN AFFORD \$4,000 TO DEFEND HIMSELF THEY HAVE NO OPTION BUT  
TO "ACCEPT WITHOUT ADMISSION." THIS ORDER THEN CARRIES THROUGH

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TO ALL MATTERS CONCERNING CONTACT. WHEN ONE ORDER EXPIRES ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS WALK INTO A POLICE STATION AND TAKE OUT ANOTHER ONE. THEY CAN BE ISSUED FOR SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS AN UNWANTED PHONE CALL FROM A DISTRESSED FATHER TRYING TO HAVE CONTACT WITH HIS CHILDREN.

HOW MANY ORDERS ARE TAKEN OUT THROUGH SHEER SPITE AND VENGEANCE

THE RECEIPTANT IS PRESUMED GUILTY UNLESS THEY CAN AFFORD TO PROVE THEIR INNOCENCE. I ALWAYS THOUGHT IN THIS COUNTRY YOU WERE INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY

IT IS NO WONDER FATHERS ARE WALKING AWAY FROM THEIR CHILDREN IN DROVES. IN A LOT OF CASES IT IS JUST TOO COSTLY - BOTH FINANCIALLY AND EMOTIONALLY TO TRY TO HAVE CONTACT. MANY ARE COMMITTING SUICIDE BECAUSE THEY JUST CANT CARRY ON. THEN THE CHILDREN ARE TOLD THEIR FATHERS AND GRANDPARENTS DONT WANT TO SEE THEM.

IF JOINT CUSTODY WAS MANDATORY MANY OF THESE PROBLEMS WOULD BE AVOIDED AND THE CHILDREN WOULD NOT BE THE PAWNS IN THE GAME.

THE CHILDREN

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HOW MUST THE CHILDREN FEEL. THEY LOVE BOTH PARENTS AND ALL OF A SUDDEN. THEY ARE LIVING WITH ONE PARENT ONLY. - AND RARELY SEE THE OTHER - AND MADE FEEL GUILTY. IF THEY MISS THE ABSENT PARENT - OR CRY WHEN THEY LEAVE THEM. I HAVE SEEN CHILDREN BEGGING TO LIVE WITH THEIR DAD - BUT THEY CAN'T EVEN SPEND HALF THEIR TIME WITH HIM.

NO WONDER THERE ARE SO MANY CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVOURIAL PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD AT PRESENT. THE CARE OF THE CHILDREN, PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND FINANCIAL WAS SHARED BY BOTH PARENTS PRIOR TO THE RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWN. - WHY SHOULD IT CHANGE AFTER. IF THE CHILDREN CAN ATTEND THE ONE SCHOOL FROM BOTH PARENTS HOME JOINT CUSTODY HAS TO BE THE WAY TO BEST SUIT THE CHILDRENS NEEDS

