

Three pages attached.

Committee Secretary

Standing Committee on Family & Community Affairs

Child Support Arrangements Inquiry

Department of the House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 398

Date Received: 18-8-03

Secretary: _____

Date 6/3/03

Inquiry into Child Custody Arrangements.

In regard to the time each parent should spend with their children the presumption that children spend equal time & care with both parents is unmanageable, especially for the child you are asking the other parent being the father to manage organization of school events, holidays, homework & sporting activities you are asking us should I pay expecting the same parental responsibilities that a mother makes daily. Parenting is not & never will be shared equally.

In respect to the child's rights under the policy, WHAT RIGHTS fundamentally you are dismissing the feeling of another human being you are displacing children, you will be placing them at risk in unstable unsafe environment.

Children need stability within the family environment & external environment, you are assuming separated parents have open communication with each other in regards to their children this couldn't be further from the truth, the presumption that this policy would encourage a happy balanced environment for the child is unrealistic for all concerned.

As a mother of three keep a board member for Council of Single Mothers & Children's Welfare? I'd like to know how you are going to enforce this policy or are you going to

see large increases with contact orders before the Family Law Court
lets cases contact orders may be contact orders need to be
enforced in relation to men failing to maintain contact
regular contact with their children.

if women break an order we are placed back in the court
system & yet I'm yet to hear of a father ordered to see
his children & follow the contact orders

Case No 1.

Father leaves the country for three years son is
only two years old at the time & yet to break contact order
he had placed before the court, when the father returned for
a holiday only, he gave no notice to the mother, the father filed
contention order the court deemed as needed to provide access
to the father immediately, in regards to the court order of the
father, not maintaining access with his child & maintaining an
ongoing relationship with his son, this question was never
raised by the court.

This father has placed this mother in court six times
every time he enters the country as of August 2003 this
case is before the courts again for a three day trial to
change the contact orders & hopefully bring an end to the
waste of time & money & control over a mother & child.

Case No 2.

A mother of three who has regular contact with their
father until 1998, he stopped seeing his children when he
got remarried, the children don't know where he lives
& have not stayed with their father since July 98
calls for birthdays & Christmas gifts arrives a month late
because he's staying in Canada.

in Child Support how low can we go & how offensive is this policy

A parent has an obligation to maintain & yet CSA has limited powers of enforcement to collect so how can CS maintain maintenance. I am currently on the RRAPanel for Child Support so these concerns are constantly being voiced by myself & the members of CSMC.

I believe fathers do have a role to play in regards to caring for their children & most parents have comfortable arrangement regarding contact you are only seeing a minority & most of these cases appear before the courts you cannot apply a rebuttable presumption into Family law in regards to residence. This policy does not emphasize the rights of the child

Yours Sincerely,

Palita Van Bennekom

PALITA VAN BENNEKOM

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