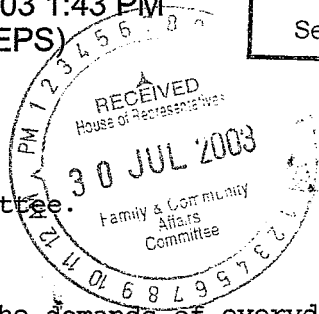


Submission No: 34

Date Received: 30-7-03

Secretary:

Sent: Tuesday, 29 July 2003 1:43 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: Shared Parenting



I wish to submit the following to the committee.

With the rapid increase of technology and the demands of everyday life we can clearly see the rapid fall in the moral fabric of society and the demise of the family unit. We cannot turn back the clock nor undo the damage done to the generations born into this spiral in the last one hundred years.

More and more we can see the results of children being baby-sat by the T.V., then imitating what they have seen, demanding the products being pushed in the advertising. We see the statistics of obesity on the rise along with the behavioural problems of these children. We now live in a throw away society.

We can not throw away our children. We need them to have full exposure to both of their parents and Grandparents and the full gammit of the extended family. That is where they learn respect. They learn that not everyone gets on with one another but they are still family. We need the children of today to grow up into well balanced and caring adults. We will be depending on their fair-mindedness and compassion as we grow old in their world.

One parent should not have the power the exclude the other parent from equal involvement with their offspring without their being sound evidence that he/she is a danger to that child. Sadly some parents will make false accusations of abuse knowing that even the unfounded accusation alone will taint the other party's case.

I believe that the courts should assume 50/50 custody and work from there. Contact with a child should not be at one parents discretion. Nor should contact be linked to financial payments. Short of a rape case there is no such thing as "Father Unknown".

There are very good reasons why same gender relationships can not bred. It takes a Mother and a Father to bring a child into this world, it takes Mother and a Father to bring up a child in this world. This isn't about how Mum and Dad get on - its about being responsible and some actions have life time long consequences.


Shared parenting should not be precluded from couples who simply cannot "get on"

Children are not pawns in the chess game of life.

We cannot sacrifice the children.

Life is not a game

I strongly support the presumption of shared parenting and payments of child support based on the real percentage of time shared between the parents.

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