

Submission No: 733

Date Received: 7-8-03

To the Committee Secretary

Submission to Committee Secretary: Inquiry on Child Custody Arrangements.

Requesting that names be withheld from any publication.

My son has a two year old daughter which he has been paying maintenance for since her birth.

It seems to me as a grandfather and an observer of the laws and conditions of child support that men are often the victim of an unjust system. Many carry not only the heart felt burden of not seeing their child each day but also the financial ruin that child support laws create. After working with Life Line as a telephone Counsellor for two years I have received many a call from men devastated by the existing laws. Mothers are in a position to manipulate these laws preventing the father regular visits, etc simply going out when the father has arranged to visit his child.

Mothers also get many financial benefits as a single mother including dependant deductions, though in many cases the father supports wholly the child financially and yet has no rights to tax deductions.

I have included some points that are obvious to me as both a grandparent and father of a son going through hardship due to existing laws favouring the mother rather than the child's long term psychological wellbeing.

Yes we must look first at the child's best interests but not exclude the conditions in which the father must endure.

I propose that both parents, if conditions are suitable, should share custody of the child. A child has the right to know their father as much as their mother.

Please see attached sheet. -

1. There should be equal custody rights, then from this point of view where the child stays and for how long can be determined by the condition and environment of each parent.
2. The father if paying maintenance has the right to have his name on the birth certificate, this is not only for his sake but also his daughter's in later years.
3. Visiting rights to be effective, outlining the inability for the mother to make times difficult.
4. Parent with child must have written permission from other parent before moving child to a location not accessible to that parent.
5. Child support amount to be capped at reasonable cost to raising child at certain ages. Allowing father to be able to financially support his child in a manner that he feels improves his relationship with the child.  
Some fathers pay hundreds of dollars per week when the child is a new born. This is unjust discrimination.
6. Father paying maintenance should be allowed to receive child support rebates from tax as mother does, etc  
father often supports child completely on a financial bases.
7. Grandparents rights to child, visiting rights as well as having the child on a weekend and a period during holidays.  
Grandparent contact is vital to sound family orientation.

Thanking you for the opportunity to  
voice my concerns,

Yours greatfully

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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