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Secretary:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 August 2003 1:25 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: Child Custody Arrangements Enquiry

I am a single mother to a 23 month old beautiful daughter. I didn't have a choice at being a single mother because my ex-husband decided to leave me. He left me when I was 7 months pregnant, I tried to save my marriage but he didn't want to try. So, if he made the decision to leave, why should he be given the right to joint custody. I never wanted to be a single mother, but that is how it turned out.

I didn't have any choices to make, so every situation is different and I don't see how you can generalise joint custody. I understand that it is best for the child to have contact with both parents, but why should I miss out.

My daughter sees her father every second Saturday for 6 hours. I believe she is too young to be away from me overnight, as a child this age needs her mother. My ex-husband has never been around babies or children nor has he ever had to look after them, so I don't see how he could adequately take care of our daughter at this age.

As for child support my ex-husband pays child support on time and at the amount assessed by the agency. But I see cases (as reported by A Current Affair) where there are a lot of parents that do not pay and it seems nothing is done about it. Steps should be taken to make sure the payments are made. When I watch these (A Current Affair) stories, it makes me wonder why the people who do pay, keep paying, because it seems if they stopped paying nothing would be done about it.

Thank you

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7 Aug 2003

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