



● THANKYOU FOR THIS PRIVILEGE TODAY , I HOPE BY FORMING THIS INQUIRY , THAT THINGS WILL CHANGE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT IS NECESSARY BY THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL

House of Representatives Standing Committee
 Community Affairs
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 Secretary

I AM A SINGLE MOTHER WITH THREE BEAUTIFUL BOYS 9, 11, AND 13 . MY EX LEFT ME NEARLY 10 YEARS AGO , WE HAD A THREE YEAR OLD, A 18 MONTH OLD ,AND I WAS 6 MONTHS PREGNANT..HE LEFT ME FOR ANOTHER WOMAN THEY HAVE SINCE MARRIED AND HAVE TWO CHILDREN . I WAS DEVASTATED WHEN HE LEFT HOWEVER IN DENIAL FOR ABOUT 12 MONTHS , FINALLY RELOCATING TO BE CLOSER TO FAMILY WHEN OUR BABY WAS 17 MONTHS OLD, IN THE SPACE OF 10 YEARS HE HAS SEEN THEM A TOTAL OF ABOUT 50 HRS . LIFE HAS BEEN HARD HOWEVER IN ONE RESPECT A LOT EASIER THAN SOME SINGLE MOTHERS , AT THE TIME OF THE INITIAL DIVORCE NO MEDIATION WAS DONE AND THAT IS ONE THING THAT MAYBE MIGHT HAVE CHANGED HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS CONTACT WITH HIS BOYS , (HE HAD NO ROLE MODEL) 10 YEARS AGO IT WAS ABNORMAL FOR A CHILD TO LIVE IN A SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLD NOW IT SEEMS THAT IT IS STARTING TO BE VIEWED AS THE NORM . OVER THE YEARS I HAVE LAUGHED .CRIED I HAVE CERTAINLY GROWN ALOT I HAVE BOUGHT AND SOLD REAL ESTATE I HAVE BEEN SELF EMPLOYED I HAVE BEEN A LANDLORD I HAVE BEEN A TENNANT I HAVE MOVED INTERSTATE , I HAVE BEEN MUM AND DAD .

MY EX DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE CONTACT WITH HIS BOYS FOR WHAT EVER REASON ,HE KNOWS THAT ALL DOORS ARE OPEN IN REGARD TO THIS MATTER.. HE HANGS UP ON US ON THE PHONE (THE NUMBERS I HAVE NOT RECEIVED OFF HIM) .

MY EX WORKED PRIVATELY AS WELL AS BEEN SELF EMPLOYED HIS WAGES HAVE BEEN CARNIGIHED SINCE FEB 94 . HOWEVER IN NOV 00 MY MAINTENANCE WAS REDUCED TO 20.00 PER MONTH (I KNEW ABOUT HIS BUSINESS AND HIS PRIVATE WORK SO I APPEALED)

THE APPEAL PROCESS INVOLVES THE OTHER PARTY BEING NOTIFIED AND ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION BEING SENT TO THE OTHER PARTY THE REASON FOR THE DECREASE WAS HIS

TAXABLE INCOME . FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR HIS GROSS INCOME WAS 930,000.00 HE MANAGED TO WRITE ALL THIS INCOME DOWN TO 18,900.00 SUBSEQUENTLY MY MAINTENANCE WAS REDUCED TO MINIMUM REQUIRED 21.67 HE FOUGHT AGAINST THIS AND FELT HE WAS JUSTIFIED IN ONLY PAYING 20.00 PER MONTH DUE TO HIS TAXABLE INCOME . AS APART OF THE APPEAL PROCESS I RELISED I NEEDED TO JUSTIFY WHY YOU NEED THE MONEY , 2 OF MY BOYS WERE GOING TO PRIVATE SPEECH THERAPY REASON 2 ,ALL THREE GO TO THE LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL REASON 3 AND I FELT THAT HE COULD AFFORD TO PAY MORE THAN 20.00 A MONTH REASON 8 .

HIS RESPONSE WAS SPEECH THERAPY IS OFFERED THROUGH THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM THAT IS FREE (THE WAITING LIST WAS 18 MONTHS) ,PUBLIC SCHOOLING IS FREE , IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO SEND THEM TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL AND I HAVE A WIFE TWO CHILDREN ,MORTGAGE AND A LIFESTYLE TO UP HOLD .

THE CSA ORGANISED A PHONE CONFERENCE THE RESULT WAS THAT MY MAINTENANCE WAS INCREASED TO A DEFAULT INCOME OF 57,00.00 (51,00.00 HE EARNT IN HIS PRIVATE JOB AND 6,000.00 PROFIT FROM THE BUSINESS) NOT THE TRUE PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

MY TWO SUBMISSIONS SENT IN ARE IN REGARD TO REASON 3 OF THE APPEAL PROCESS THE SECOND SUBMISSION IS THE FACT THAT THE CSA WILL NOT TOUCH ANYTHING IN JOINT NAME S

I WISH TO START WITH THE FIRST SUBMISSION IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION WAS HIS RESPONSE TO MY SURPRISE THE CURRENT LEGISLATION SAYS THE COSTS OF MAINTAINING THE CHILDREN ARE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BECAUSE IT COSTS EXTRA TO CARE FOR ,EDUCATE OR TRAIN IN THE WAY THE PARENTS INTENDED . OUR INTENTION WAS TO BRING THE BOYS UP IN A CARING LOVING ENVIRONMENT ,ONE THAT ALLOWED APARENT HOME BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ,ONE THAT TAUGHT THEM RESPECT FOR OTHERS AS WELL AS THEM SELVES AND A EDUCATION THAT REINFORCED ALL OF THESE VALUES , I FEEL THAT I HAVE COMPLETED ALL THESE WITH THE BEST OF MY ABILITY , CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES .

THIS RESPONSE FROM MY EX IS PURELY FINANCIAL , HE IS LYING ON A LEGAL NOTE HOWEVER BECAUSE MY EX LEFT PRIOR TO SCHOOL AGE , I DO NOT HAVE AN ENROLMENT FORM SIGNED BY HIM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL (HE HAS NOT BEEN INTERESTED IN

ANY ASPECT OF THE CHILDRENS LIVES).MY TWO ELDEST BOYS WERE ATTENDING A CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL WHILST WE WERE TOGETHER STILL THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE .THE INTENTION OF BOTH PARENENTS WERE ESTABLISHED BY ATTENDING A CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL I THOUGHT .. THE CSA WILL NOT ALLOW REASON 3 THEY WILL NOT ALLOW ANYTHING TO DO WITH SCHOOLING EG ;SCHOOL SUPPLIES ,UNIFORMS , A RECENT EXAMPLE MY ELDEST SON HAS AN OPPORTUBITY TO GO TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY IN JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS NEXT YEAR AS A PART OF A SCHOOL EXCURION AT A COST OF xxxx AMOUNT OF DOLLARS BUT BECAUSE IT IS SCHOOL RELATED THE CSA HAS DIALLOWED THIS EXPENSE MY SONS FRIENDS ARE ALL GOING ,A TRIP OF ALIFE TIME SOMETHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO DENY YOUR CHILDREN . SCHOOLING IS A VITAL PART OF GROWING UP WE WANTED THE BEST FOR OUR KIDS .

- HIS RESPONSE IS PURELY FINANCIAL AND I HAVE FOUND OUT THAT PEOPLE DO LIE ON FORMAL DOCUMENTS !!!!! . THEY NEED TO BE SEVERLY PENALISED THIS PART OF THE LEGISLATION IS UNFAIR . HE CAN TURN AROUND WHEN IT SUITS HIM AND SAY SOMETHING SO LUDARUCE AS THIS ????MY BOYS WERE IN A CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL PRIOR TO HIM LEAVING A ENROLMENT FORM SIGNED BY MY EX WAS PRODUCED STILL NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE . I HAVE JUST HAD MY SECOND APPEAL AND THE SAME REASON CAME UP , I SAID TO THEM "WHAT OTHER DOCUMENTS CAN I SUBMIT TO IMPROVE MY CASE ?" AND THEIR RESPONSE WAS "YOU CANT" THE ENROLMENT IS THE ONLY DOCUMENT WE WILL ACCEPT " .

- THE REASONING BEHIND PUTTING PEN TO PAPER WAS NOT FINANCIAL.

INDIRECTLY MY EX IS PAYING FOR SCHOOL FEES . I HAVE NEEDED TO MAKE ALL DECISIONS FOR MY BOYS ,CAN I SLEEP OVER ,CAN I HAVE THIS OR THAT ,WHAT SPORT CAN I PLAY ,ANY MEDICAL DECISIONS ETC THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION THAT OF EDUCATION IS NOT UP TO ME ? . WHEN IT SUITS MY EX FOR FINANCIAL GAIN HE WOULD SAY ANYTHING .THIS LEGISLATION IS UNFAIR AND NEEDS TO BE CHANGED CSA STAFF HAVE ALL AGREEDDED THAT PRIOR TO SCHOOL AGE THE INTENT IS HARD FOR THE PARENT TO PROVE . I CAN UNDERSTAND IF HE TOOK AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE BOYS LIVES THE DECISION NEEDS TO BE A JOINTONE (WHICH IT WAS TO START WITH) HOWEVER THIS IS NOT THE CASE .

MY SECOND SUBMISSION THAT OF JOINT BANK ACCOUNTS

IN MAY OF THIS YEAR MY EX TOOK A REDUNDENCY PACKAGE .NO MORE CARNACHING !!! I WAS IN THE BOAT OF MAY OTHER MOTHERS THAT HAVE SELF EMPLOYED EX'S .

HE HAS NOT PAID FROM THAT DATE ,AND CSA WILL NOT TOUCH JOINT BANK ACCOUNTS . THIS IS DISCRIMINATION !!!!! ALL MY BANK ACCOUNTS ARE IN MY NAME AND THE CSA WOULD NOT HESITATE TO TAKE FROM THEM IF NEED BE .BECAUSE MY EX HAS NO ACCOUNTS IN HIS NAME I DO NOT GET MAINTENCE .

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IF THEY ARE OWED MONEY THEY WILL TAKE FROM WHOEVER TO GET IT ,WHAT MAKES THEM DIFFERENT FROM WOMEN THAT ARE OWED MONEY NOTHING THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THEY HAVE THE POWER WE DO NOT .

THE CURRENT LEGISLATION IN REGARD TO THIS MATTER NEEDS TO BE CHANGED I DO NOT DENY MY EX AND HIS PARTNER OF THEIR INCOME. . IN THE APPEAL IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR THE CSA SAID THAT I WOULD NOT GET ANY MAINTENANCE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING IN JOINT NAMES .. HE DID ATTACH A CENTRELINK EMPLOYMENT SEPARATION CERTIFICATE WHICH GIVES ME REASON TO BELIEVE HE IS ON A WELFARE PAYMENT OF SOME DESCRIPTION!!!!) IN THE APPEAL PROCESS IN SEP 03 HE MISLED THE CSA ABOUT HIS ASSETS ,HIS % OF HIS BUISNESS HE OWNS , .ALOT OF THESE ASSETS ARE IN EITHER IN PRIVATE OR HIS COMPANY NAME . . . HE DID NOT SUBMIT HIS FINANCIALS THIS APPEAL)CSA SAW THROUGH THIS AND REFEREED TO THE LEE SURVEY DO DETERMINE MAINTENANCE .THEY HAVE INCREASED MAINTENANCE YET AGAIN . HOWEVER DUE TO THE DETAILS TALKED ABOUT ABOVE I HAVE NOT RECIEVED ANYTHING SINCE HE TOOK HIS REDUNDENCY PACKAGE .

IT DOES SEEM UNFAIR THAT IF YOU WORK PRIVATELY IT GOES ON GROSS INCOME AND IF YOU ARE SELF EMPLOYED IT GOES ON NET INCOME THIS I FEEL SHOULD BE REVERSED .

IT IS A WELL KNOWN FACT THAT IF YOU WANT TO DODGE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS YOU EITHER BECOME UNEMPLOYERD ,BECOME SELF EMPLOYED ,OR WORK FOR CASH . THERE ARE A LOT OF DADS SCREAMING OUT FOR HELP .

IN MY CASE I HAVE MY CHILDREN 24/7 ..

,THEY ARE GETTING OLDER NOW AND HAVE WORKED THINGS OUT AND HOPEFULLY ONE DAY THEIR FATHER WILL WANT TO KNOW HIS BOYS . I HAVE SET UP MY SUPPORT SYSTEMS THEY ARE MY FAMILY ,MY FRIENDS , AND THE SCHOOL IS A VITAL PART OF THIS NETWORK EVERYTHING FILTERS OFF THIS THE TEACHERS ,PRINCIPAL ,FAMILIES OF MY MY BOYS MATES ARE SO LOVING AND CARING THAT THEY HAVE BECOME APART OF MY SUPPORT NETWORK , .

SO TO SUMMARIES THE LEGISLATION STATING REASON 3 N THE APPEAL PROCESS IS OUTDATED AND NEEDS TO BE AMMENDED TO ALLOW FOR PARENTS THAT SEPERATE PRIOR TO SCHOOL AGE THE EDUCATION PROCESS DOES START AT AT PRESCHOOL GOES ON TO PRIMARY ,HIGH SCHOOL AND POSSIBLY UNI .AFTER 10 YEARS OF IGNORING HIS 3 BOYS HE CAN SAY SOMETHING LIKE IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION WHAT ABOUT MY INTENTION MY CHILDRENS INTENTION ? THE CURRENT LEGISLATION THAT WILL NOT ALLOW JOINT BACK ACCOUNT TO BE CARNIGHIED NEEDS TO BE CHANGED . IF MONEY IS OWED TO THE CSA THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO GO INTO ANY ACCOUNT WITH THE PAYING PARENTS NAME ON IT AND GET IT ,JUST LIKE THE FINANCIAL INSTITIONS .

THANKYOU .