

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 79

Date Received: 10-7-03

Secretary: _____

From: on behalf of Committee, FCA (REPS)

Subject: FW: Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I feel that the idea of joint parenting is an ideal presumption. When a marriage breaks down a child goes from the situation of having both parents readily available to them, to the situation where they reside primarily with one parent and have contact with the other parent. Most children in this situation grow up wishing that they had more time with the contact parent, after all it is the child's right to know and feel the love of both parents, and if a child is only to spend limited time with the non custodial parent then this is not a adequate platform to form a relationship.

In many instances the contact parent becomes disgruntled with the residence parent because they have to pay child support yet the contact parent is prepared to take the child and care for the child on an equal basis but is prevented by the residence parent for their own selfish reasons. If there is a genuine desire by the contact parent to share the day to day responsibility that comes with raising a child and they have the capacity to do so and promote the development of that child then the presumption should be shared joint parenting.

As far as the court making orders in favour of contact with others persons I feel that if the persons in question have been a significant factor in the child's life then it should be granted, as it is unfair on the child to take that factor away as separation of parents is not the child's fault and why should the child be punished.

In relation to the existing child support formula, after my divorce I moved on and married a woman who had four step children. The father of 2 of the children walked out on my current wife and had never paid any child support so when I came on the scene I supported the children in question. Yet when CSA did up my assessment this wasn't taken into consideration and when I asked them about it I was told that I only had a moral obligation to these children. Yet now that we have located the father of the said children and we ask CSA how does she go about getting back pay for all the years he has neglected to pay we are told that we have to take him to court.

Yours sincerely,

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