

Submission No: 109

JUL 2003 Date Received: 21-7-03

Secretary:

From:
Sent: Monday, 21 July 2003 10:53 AM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: family law/fathers and joint custody inquiry

Hello, this is an email for your inquiry into family law/fathers rights. I am a 30 year old father who has not seen his son for 8 weeks. my partener used a domestic violence order to get into a refuge even though there was no violence. Firstly there is a 6 week wait until legal Aid is granted, then you have to wait for court dates and whilst all this is happening time away from son is ongoing and in my case will be 3 months when we finally go to court. She i believe is going to make accusations of abuse to her and the baby physically which is completely untrue. but because of the current way the law and family court is i am guilty until i prove my innocence which is wrong. Fathers are just as important as mothers in the raising of a baby. yes for a few months they are breastfed but after that alot of fathers are equally involved in all aspects of raising a child but come court time the mother is always favoured for custody without even considering the best situation for the baby on a case by case basis. I belive the law should be equal to fathers and mothers. There is nothing i can do personally to see my son before 3 months although the law says the child has the right to be cared for by both parents. Unless you can afford a good solicotor then you have to rely on legal aid which is in no rush to help. In family law/ custody and contact situations i think that waiting period after seperation should be waived because it just adds to the time that a child is being denied contact with the father. being 10 months old my son will have been denied this contact for 3 months and the government really needs to do something for fathers quickly. Residence of the child seems to automatically go to the mother, why?. A father can be just as affective in raising a child and in alot of cases has the support to help him. In a family court before a judge its always the father having to prove his worthiness as a father not whats best for the child as it should be. I just think that more needs to be done to ensure fathers have equal rights when it comes to family law and both parents should have joint residence as dads havre rights too.

thankyou

Hot chart ringtones and polyphonics. Go to
[http://ninemsn.com.au/share/redirect/adTrack.asp?mode=click&clientID=174
&referral=Hotmail_taglines_plain&URL=http://ninemsn.com.au/mobilemania/default.asp](http://ninemsn.com.au/share/redirect/adTrack.asp?mode=click&clientID=174&referral=Hotmail_taglines_plain&URL=http://ninemsn.com.au/mobilemania/default.asp)