

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs
Submission No: 1436
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Secretary:

Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs Child
Custody Arrangements Inquiry,
Department of the House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra 2600

Further to my submission, I thought you might be interested in this more recent correspondence as I feel it is a good example of the problems the non-residential parent has when the residential parent has the 'ownership' of the children and can use that power for their own selfish ends contrary to the children's best interests.

I hope you have the courage to do something about this injustice that is destroying little children's relationships with their fathers'.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature and address block]

RECEIVED
[Faint circular stamp]

Regional Child Support

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Madam

[REDACTED]

I have recently had a child support review decision that adjusted a [REDACTED] credit, brought about because I was overpaying my former wife, to a [REDACTED] debit by some magical undisclosed formula by the child support review officer.

In view of the errors contained in the review, I have put in a reply to that decision on the [REDACTED] 2003 but have as yet had no reply. I have spoken to a [REDACTED] who have suggested if the decision was not corrected that I could pay off the \$ [REDACTED] within the next 12 months and I agreed with that.

I was lucky enough to obtain a family ticket to see the Rugby World Cup match between [REDACTED]. I have been speaking to the children in [REDACTED] to see if they would like to come over for the weekend. I was intending to fly them over and drive down myself to save on costs. There will be no trouble getting rid of the tickets if [REDACTED] do not wish to come to [REDACTED], but I thought it would be a good opportunity to spend some time with their father as, because they were taken to [REDACTED], I generally only see them twice each year.

My former wife, [REDACTED], phoned me at [REDACTED] yesterday [REDACTED] and told me that [REDACTED] was quite keen to come but she would not let him go until I paid the debited child support amount as assessed by the review officer as mentioned earlier. I asked her to put it in writing. She declined. I asked her if she was short of money. She said yes. I asked her how this could be so when she has been paid over \$ [REDACTED] child support in the last [REDACTED] months. I

asked her if she was prepared to deprive [REDACTED] of the trip against his wishes to get more money. She hung up.

She phoned again a few minutes later and said "it is not negotiable, take it or leave it, that's the way it is" and hung up.

The papers are full of the problems of children growing up without the influence of a father. The children are very well off financially. My former wife has actually been paid \$ [REDACTED] child support in the past 2 months and earns over \$ [REDACTED] a year. The children's needs are not for more money for their mother. If you wanted a better example of putting personal interests in front of the needs of the children then this would be it. This contact between father and child should be universally supported, unfortunately the whole system seems to have little interest in, or accountability for, the real needs of the children and the review office, just supports one party against the other.

This little situation is typical of the many problems and manipulation my children have encountered over the years because there is no accountability. Please advise if you consider this ultimatum acceptable behaviour. The Department of Family and Community Services has stated that I have, in their words, an 'outstanding' record in child support. If I have done my part what about the other side. Does the Department sit passively by while someone who has only joint custody with myself and who, after abducting the children and contributing nothing for their access each year, can dictate like this and hold the children's needs to ransom to bleed a bit more out of the system? Does the Department who has such a dominating role in the life of non-residential parents have any influence at all on the accountability or behaviour of the residential parent?

Could you please advise if you can do something about this, as these types of things have been going on too long and for the children's sake I feel I will have to take it further.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]