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House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: **682**

Date Received: **7-8-03**

Secretary:

Re: Child Custody Arrangement Inquiry

To whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding my concerns of proposals being bandied about **regarding equal access** in cases of marital separation.

It is a **frightening proposal** that is being suggested by those who are attempting to be "fair" but there is no "fairness" in this situation...as usually **the children are the losers..then the mothers**, who are mostly acting to protect themselves and their children when they choose to separate.

But the court seems to be **upholding "mens rights- not fathers rights..mens rights,"** and often times as in my experience, I have yet to see anyone listen to what the children really want, **leaving children vulnerable again to systems and laws which only pay lip service to their needs.**

Well..talk about hell hath no fury as a woman scorned...another myth...there is no fury as a man thrown out and separated from what he thinks he OWNS or has the RIGHT to.

Going through court myself I see how **the value system of the court does not take into account my own personal value system and passes judgement upon me because I continue to maintain what is best for my children.**

The court effectively passes a **life sentence on the mother and children...**(ie, how often access takes place even if there is a risk) **one that suits the need of fathers who simply are exercising their vengefulness thru the available system to get even with their wives** whilst the women who have been the primary care givers are warned not to interfere with the relationship with the father....even if the father never had a relationship with the children.

Women if not harassed, threatened or murdered by their estranged husbands are still treated pitifully in the system.

"WE" end up having to do backward flips thru the hoops of the system to suit the men who had so little to do with the children's physical and emotional upbringing.

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Forgive me, I would not consider myself a feminist because well..

I like men, and for what its worth.. I do believe **fathers should have contact with their children, to the degree the children feel comfortable and safe** and are not just being used as pawns in the painful separation game, and where the fathers **are actively contributing to their childrens growth and development**..not just placed in front of the home video while dad sleeps..

However..I would also go so far as to say, and not just based upon my own opinion but what I have researched, is that children, **sons especially CAN** grow up well adjusted **without their fathers**, so long as we do assist in providing them with **quality male role models to model after..,be it from whatever source**..my children have a wonderful Karate teacher who I believe is a valuable role model to the children who attend there. Far more ethical, productive and hard working than their father is.

Court appointed psychologist reports are sorely lacking as these are highly contrived and manipulative mostly in favor of the father, with leading questions pointed at the innocent minds of the children to again favor seeing ""daddy"..and all research points to the fact that children are resilient and forgiving, to the point they will actually accept abuse.

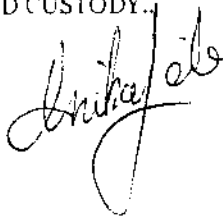
I want my son/s to work at anything and retain his/their integrity and be a contributor in life..not a parasite.
..something as a mother I am contributing to our community...a giver not a taker.
Mothers are the shapers and makers of our future generations...it has...nothing to do with equal rights

CAN YOU live without YOUR MOM

Go ahead and try!

MAY WE TRULY FIND A HEARTFELT, REASONABLE AND SANE RESPONSE TO THIS IDIOTIC NOTION OF SHARED CUSTODY..

With all due respect,
One humble opinion.
Anika Leib



Mother, cook, cleaner, educator, carpenter, philosopher, plumber, clown and entertainment committee, panic arrest button, ethicist, moralist friend, counsellor, spiritual guru, humanitarian, vet, nurse, visionary, entertainer, chauffeur, publicist, editor, decorator, caterer, entrepreneur, interpreter, mediator, weight lifter, designer, story teller, baker, gardening specialist, designer, seamstress, stain specialist, researcher, bar maid, culinary expert, publicist, decoy economist, and of course hostess...with the mostess All. in a size 10 gorgeous evening gown..of course!