

The Department of
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600
13 August 2003

the House of Representatives on Family and Community Affairs
Submission No: 1384
Date Received: 18-8-03
Secretary:

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VISITING RIGHTS

Visitation or contact rights have all the hallmark of prisoner and visitor whatever the term used. Fathers and children have a fundamental and God given right to each other as every parent has a right to rear their children – teach them family and life values as parents see fit. We are, after all, living in a democracy, which is supposed to guarantee such rights.

ANGST AMONGST MEN

Is it a wonder that men are angry and frustrated at having their children torn from them? Can we truly find it odd that men are bewildered when their spouse applies for and is granted a restraining order against them? Is it hard to believe that anyone who is denied their way of life, family home and dispossessed of their earnings to be angry and frustrated? Is it out of character for a man or women who is condemned and inhibited by law where no crime is alleged or given the right to defend before being dispossessed of their home, marriage, family and above all their children to believe the law has betrayed them?

Clearly, we not only have a right but are duty bound to seek justice, the protection of law and above all to know and rear our children.

History notes all too often how men/fathers have fought and died on battlefields in their quest to protect their family, home and children. Are men any different now? Are men less able to defend or love their children than they were in yesteryear? The answer I submit must be no.

If men are angry it is only because the present system reeks with injustice and in that reckoning, clearly men are not violent for if we were, then as some put it, the streets would be very violent indeed.

PARENTING SHOULD BE SHARED

Often, children are used as bargaining chips to force a parent (mostly fathers) in giving up assets in order to secure some contact rights. Sadly, even after giving such rights, the parent is denied contact anyway and then forced to take matters back to court at great expense and frustration only to be told that there are no guarantees.

PAYING MONEY FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Fathers, by nature, work and build to the benefit of their children and family. The issue is not money but the benefit, protection and welfare of their children and family. Fathers love their children too.

ISSUE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence has become a weapon to be used in Family Court proceedings with devastating results. Usually, the children are stolen from the father and paternal extended family.

It must appear odd that so many domestic violence related orders are granted (usually 1000 per week) by the courts and yet so few (if any) are taken issue by our Police force. We must consider that many (if not all) allegations of domestic violence are made for ulterior purposes. It is not unusual for the legal profession to suggest the parent (usually the mother) take out a restraining order to better their chances before the Family Court.

GROWING DIVORCE RATE

Apart of the offending nature divorce imposes on Christian belief, divorce is often used as a weapon on the innocent spouse who does not want a divorce; lose the children and family; be uprooted from the family home and way of life.

Further, the offending spouse not only threatens with divorce but also the gauntlet of the Family Court and the legal expenses that go with it, but the Child Support Agency as well which in affect, the Taxation Office.

THE LAW – MARRIAGE, FAMILY & CHILDREN

The law professes to protect marriage, family and children (see the marriages Act and the Family Law Act at section 43). However, the law, at best, only pays lip service to the lofty rhetoric of the said Act's. Although the law professes protection, it does not impose penalty on the wrongdoer. It is as absurd as if the law specified against theft but would have no penalty attached. It would be a meaningless law and so is the marriages Act and section 43 of the Family Law Act. Both profess the "widest possible protection" to marriage, family and children but does not attach penalty against those who violate same.

As such, by not imposing penalty on the wrongdoer, the law affectively imposes penalty on the innocent. This is not conducive to the spirit of the law or democracy.

CHILDREN AND DIVORCE

In most cases, it is the woman/mother who comes out of divorce – settlement – custody of children with, to say the least, the lion's share. Sometimes (about 3%) it is the father who gets the benefits. However, in every case, it is the children who are the losers. Children will inevitably lose a parent and the extended family of that parent. Does it really matter to the child which parent and extended family? The children's losses and devastation can be measured in the child suicide count, the extent of drug abuse; Street kids; Abortion rate amongst the young; the poor education rate amongst children especially male children and the delinquency amongst our young. I may add that the suicide rate amongst men/fathers is also alarmingly high.

THE SOLUTION

To every structure is a foundation. The stronger the foundation the stronger the structure. The foundation of the nation is its family. The stronger the family, the stronger is the nation.

In today's environment, the family is weak indeed where marriage has become insignificant and the family even less. How does anyone fare well – especially children?

The only possible solution is to strengthen the foundations – the family. To strengthen the family, we must look to what binds it at its very foundations – the marriage. Only then can the children be truly protected. After all, why marriage if not for the protection of children? Easy divorce makes a mockery of the very term – marriage.

The rebuttal of shared parenting is by all means a good start to the present dilemma.

MEN'S SUPPORT GROUPS

The very fact that so many men's support groups have and still exist is a poor legacy on our Australian society. Such groups speak volumes on the way we are treating decent men, women, families, marriage and above all - the children.


The danger must be that, if allowed to fester any longer, a total revolt by decent men and women who can tolerate this betrayal of law no longer. Such laws are the responsibility of the Parliament. A word of caution, The Family Court has a history and indeed a habit of flaunting and/or sidestepping the laws of Parliament.

We, the Blackshirts, will sit and wait given that Parliament is now on the right track. Do not keep us waiting too long.

We acknowledge that Parliament is trying to do its best in a very bad situation. Indeed it can be said that it is too little too late but if anything can be done it must be done now.

I am available for any input that may be of assistance.

Yours faithfully



John Abbott
Spokesman for the Blackshirts

c.c. The media