

August 7, 2003

Attn: Ken Ticehurst, MP
Electorate Office
Fax: 4334 7144

Dear Ken

Re: Ticehurst's Family Law Forum

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 1440

Date Received: 18-8-03

Secretary:

█ spoke to me after her conversation with you suggesting I send this letter directly to you. I am sorry █ that I am unable to come tonight due to Ourimbah Precinct Meeting,

Thank you for this opportunity to put our problems/ questions/ complaints forward to a professional group. We hope that it will be extremely beneficial to all concerned.

My submission:-

█ and I are grandparents to two children aged █ and █ who live with their mother.

She is living in a defacto relationship with someone else and makes personal contact with our grandchildren extremely difficult or non existent.

Court ruling has been given to our son for one weekend per month access which is the time that █ and I go to Sydney to see them. Many excuses and lies are given when our son contacts her for his monthly access.

Our son has married since the split from this other relationship and would like to have his children more often so his four children can grow up together.

The mother receives Carer's pension for her mother who lives in another commission house but in the same suburb. She frequently has other (needy??) children staying in the house and palms our grandchildren onto this same mother who requires care.

Our son was made to sign an agreement to pay half of the Private School fees that the mother chose to send our grandchildren, who I remind you are only turning █ and █ this year. He was threatened that she would see to it that he never saw the children again unless he signed the agreement at the █ Court.

My questions are-

1. What rights do grandparents have in accessing their grandchildren eg. School events, sharing birthdays, Christmas, school holidays, without the hassle of going to solicitors for advice and action?
2. How do fathers enforce court orders to have access to their children without returning to a solicitor and the courts each time the children's mother goes into a mood?
3. What rights do stepmothers have? Do they need to accept verbal abuse from the mother each time the children are returned home after a visit with their dad?
4. The court order states that dad has access for half of each school holidays—mother refuses this right either on a whim or a threat. No children when she doesn't get her way. How can this be stopped?
5. When our son has had dealings with Child Support Officers, who are usually Asian and have difficulty understanding English, they have been less than understanding. The wait at the offices in Sydney is extreme especially for shift workers who rarely have a day off in office hours.

As he loves his children, the mother has used these children to manipulate to get everything her own way. I can understand why fathers take the extreme of abducting their children if they have to deal with such mothers as our son has had over the last four years.

Thank you again Ken for giving us the opportunity to air these things.

Kind Regards,

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