

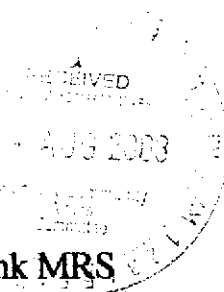
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA A.C.T.

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 255

Date Received: 4-8-03

Secretary:



DEAR SIR OR MADAM

Firstly we would like to take this opportunity to thank MRS HULL MP for trying to change what we think is a very unfair law. I am writing on behalf of our son (the father) my husband and myself the (grandparents).

Our son has not seen his son for almost two years, he has been to court off & on for years trying to work something out, his son was 18 months old when they separated in 1996. Last time he went to court she (the mother) had LEGAL AID which we don't know how she got it. Over the years it has cost him something like \$4000, she kept saying she didn't care as it was not costing her anything. He decided he could not afford it anymore so he dropped the case as she had ignored court orders before.

It is very sad as he loves and misses him so much all the time. Everybody says she can't stop him from seeing his son but she has kept them apart for 2 years. She has changed his name to her maiden name and that hurts his dad also.

He has been paying maintenance through CHILDSUPPORT since they separated in 1996

We believe the maintenance is too much and should be after tax not on gross pay also the parent with custody should be made accountable as to how the money is spent.

It is very hard for non custodian parents when denied contact with their children or child and have to pay so much maintenance, I believe they think everybody is against them and is the cause of a lot of suicides and breakdowns

We as grandparents would dearly love to see our grandson, he is very much a big part of our family and we love and miss him so much.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Irene Stevenson

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