

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

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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 ACT 2600

This is a statement that I have written in regards to my own opinion towards parents having to pay for maintenance for children not in their care.

Every woman has a choice to have or not to have a child in whatever circumstances. Bringing a child into this world is a big choice if it was unplanned.

In my opinion and being in these circumstances, I fell pregnant at an early age of 20. My partner did not want to have the child but I was adamant in keeping it, as I wanted to have children and did not believe nor wanted to have an abortion. My partner and I separated due to this and I went on having my child without his support. It was my choice to keep the baby and so there for I did not feel that he should pay maintenance nor did I want any hand outs from him or his family.

What I am trying to get across is that if the woman goes ahead with the pregnancy, knowing full well the man does not want to keep it nor be with the woman any longer, then they should not have to pay for ongoing maintenance if they feel not to. I think the laws should be reviewed on these matters. It also works in reverse, if a woman falls pregnant and does not want to keep the child but the male does, the woman goes ahead and has an abortion the male still misses out

The woman does have the last say in the case no matter what. It can be very hard on relationships when the male has started a new family and does have financial hardship added to all the other day to day burdens.

Falling pregnant after a "drunken one night stand" is no exception and there is no reason for this to happen in today's world. If the woman decides to keep a child after these circumstances then she should deal with the consequences of the upbringing of her child. There are many reasons and different circumstances that we have or do not have children and not matter what the choice we need to deal with it with out dragging in other members that never wanted the child.

Regards
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