

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2011

I have been contacted by a constituent (Parent 1) who is unable to put in a submission due to current court proceedings.

I am therefore relaying their issue as it certainly appears to have merit.

Parent 1 is the sole carer for child and due to a court order Parent 2 is not to contact, in person, writing or by phone due to a history of violence.

Parent 2 tried to renegotiate the terms of contact through Commonwealth courts without disclosing the state family court order. Once the court order was discovered the case was not allowed to proceed.

Attempts for contact have been made through several different courts as they live in different states, each time once the court order was revealed contact has not been allowed.

Such attempts are both expensive and time consuming for the courts and parents.

The constituent has suggested that a **National database of court orders** be established.

I ask the Committee to consider whether these issues should be within the scope of the Bill.

Yours sincerely

Louise Pratt
Senator for Western Australia