

This may be a common thread however I must raise an issue that needs addressing as it has a cascading effect on the health of men.

From personal experience I know that being denied the opportunity to have contact with the children of my former partner and I has severely damaged my health.

Firstly I am not violent, abusive and don't have a criminal record.

What I am is bankrupt, depressed, susceptible to illness, and lost.

I am not blaming any court as I have just commenced legal proceedings.

The impact of not seeing my children for 18 months has taken a heavy toll health wise.

I am seeing professionals to help. However there is no one person in a professional capacity that seems to understand what I am going through.

I say with reserved caution that there are a multitude of services including a Minister for Women available. Sadly the same does not apply to men.

Men need education in health and well being, more services available to them and perhaps a Minister for Men given the statistical data provided by and Compiled by the Fatherhood Foundation.

Traditional men stay away from doctors etc. This needs to be addressed urgently. The stigma of perceived "weakness" has to be removed. Perhaps educating school age boys would go a long way for the next generation.

Thank you for your time,

Regards,

Hugh McGonigle