House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No. ..

517

## FACTORS OF CONSIDER ATTON: --RELATING TO EQUAL CUSTODY ---

RECEIVED
Francisco

THE CHILDREN DESERVE TO SPEND EQUAL TIME WITH BOTH PARENTS SO THEY CAN BE REASSURED THAT THEY ARE NOT THE REASON FOR THE SEPERATION ANDTHAT THEY ARE TRULY LOVED BY BOTH PARENTS.

THE CHILDREN, UNDER THE PRESENT FORMAT, ARE USUALLY SUBJECT TO THE BITTERNESS OF THE SPOUSE TOWARDS THE HUSBAND, OR VISA-VERSA AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN SOME SORT OF CHEAP REVENGE., WITH EQUAL TIME WITH BOTH PARENTS THE CHILDREN CAN SEE THAT THEY ARE STILL LOVED BY BOTH PARENTS AND THIS GOES A LONG WAY TO ALLIEVIATING THE SUFFERING OF THE CHILDREN. CHILDREN ARE NOT STUPID AND ALWAYS WORK OUT THAT THEY ARE LOVED BUT THIS CAN TAKE SOME TIME WHICH CAN SCAR THEM FOR LIFE.

THE LACK OF CONTACT BETWEEN A CHILD AND PARENT HAS A GREAT IMPACT ON BOTH PARTIES BUT THE FACT THAT A CHILD HAS SO MUCH TIME ON HIS OR HER HANDS TENDS TO DRAG OUT THE TIME BETWEEN VISITS THUS CREATING MORE SUFFERING IN THE CHILDS MIND.

THE FACT THAT THE PARENT WITH THE MOST CONTACT WITH THE CHILDREN HOLDS THE HIGHEST TRUMP USUALLY COMES INTO PLAY AS A MEANS OF CHEAP REVENGE BUT THE INNOCENT VICTIMS AGAIN ARE THE CHILDREN.

THERE OF COARSE IS THE HISTORY OF THE PARENTS THAT MUST COME INTO ACCOUNT SO EACH CASE DESERVES TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR ON IT'S OWN MERRITTS. THE CHILDRENS SAFETY IS OF PARRAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

ANOTHER FACTOR, ALTHOUGH IT IS OF A SECONDARY NATURE, IS THAT NOT ONLY MUST THE SPOUSE THAT RECEIVES THE LEAST AMOUNT OF CONTACT PAY

MAINTAINANCE BUT ALSO MUST PROVIDE A FULLY EQUIPPED HOME FOR THE CHILDREN IN WHICH TO LIVE ON HIS OR HER WEEKEND AND IS NOT ENTILED TO ANY OF THE REBATES THAT THE OTHER SPOUSE RECEIVES.

I'M SURE THERE ARE MANY CASES OUT THERE WHERE THE SPOUSE PAYING THE CHILD SUPPORT ALSO CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS OTHER MONETARY ISSUES SUCH AS MEDICAL INSURANCE, SCHOOL FEES & EXCURSIONS, CLOTHING & OTHER WANTS & NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN.

THESE MATTERS, AND I'M SURE MANY MORE, ARE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DECIDING THE AUTOMATIC CUSTODY OF THE CHILDREN.

CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO COMPULSERY MEDIATION ON A REGULAR BASIS OVER THE FIRST STAGES OF PERMANENT SEPERATION. WHERE A LOT OF WHATTHE CHILDREN GET PUT THROUGH BY NO CHOICE OF THEIR OWN, THIS AGAIN WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PREVIOUS VIOLENCE & BEHAVIOUR.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME & INPUT & COULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER ME FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION IF NEEDED. COULD YOU ALSO KEEP ME INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER.

YOURS TRULY COLIN DEFRIES

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