		House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
From: Sent: To: Subject:	kevin Thursday, 7 August 2003 11:43 PM Committee, FCA (REPS) Submission	Submission No:
		Secretary:

In 1975 the then Labor senator and barrister Lionel Murphy introduced into parliament the current Family Law Act - Murphy's Law, and what can go wrong ,will go wrong .

* (1) I believe that shared parenting should be the starting point in Family Law, especially when the separating parents don't get along so well, as this is the situation when a child is liable most to lose a parent due to ongoing animosity, whilst the female chauvinists will try to play the 'only males are abusive card' as justification for the continuation of the sole parent/sacred cow regime presently honoured in Family Law, the reality is that children have become primary income producing assets when monopolised by the custodial parent in many family breakdowns .and are used.

If one parent is being unreasonably reticent regarding joint parenting , then let the child go to the other more co-operative parent, until the other parent comes around in their thinking .

* (2) It is important that children get to see their extended families where possible , and having more time with both parents should take care of this , It is crazy (and often very dangerous) at present that a father will have to make do with a weekend babysitting role (if lucky) and a bloke mum picked up in the pub can live with the children full-time !!

(b) The C\$A has become a Child Abduction Support Agency , forcing many already stressed non-custodial parents to sanction the theft of their beloved children , and putting them under enormous financial pressure also , the C\$A has no problem kicking a man when he is down , and does not consider the discarded parent worthy of a life, to seek to replace parents with handouts is absolute folly and highly offensive

I also believe it should be illegal to walk out on a relationship involving a child , unless there are very severe proven circumstances

Abolish the Family Court , We need a tribunal based on reconciliation , not assassination - wanting to be a parent is not a crime, nor should being the major taxpayer .

In the meantime can we get all those 'only mother = victim ' domestic violence posters (bias ?) out of the buildings ,or at least also cover the other parties also suffering .

There is no compassion in Family Law , It is emotionally brutal .

Thank You

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