House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
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Mr, Ken Ticehurst, M.P. 211b The Entrance Road The Entrance. N.S.W. 2261.

I would to thank you again for taking time to listen to my concerns about my daughter and my grandchildren.

ALLEN F GUUGAN

I would like to submit my thoughts on how to protect the rights of children and parents that are involved in upheaval of a separation.

1/.

The NO FAULT clause should be cancelled.

2/.

The Courts should make it harder for divorce, by the way of counselling both parties.

They both must attend this counselling without excuses.

3/.

Both parties should have equal access and time to their children with out excuses.

4/,

Both parties should be asked if their differences are more important than the wellbeing of their children.

5/.

That the children should not be taken away from either parent, by way of moving long distances which would stop access.

6/.

That children should be able to voice, if old enough, their thoughts on the break down of their parents unable to stop together.

7/.

That Child Support Agency should speak to the parent who they think should pay for the children and find out more details of their financial status. Instead of using force to make the parent to pay some high amount that they seem to pluck out of sky before they even notify that person.

8/.

That anybody who makes allegations of child abuse etc. should have the right to take that child to a Doctor or Hospital, with the help of police, without the fear of prosecution. This ensures that people who honestly believe that a child is being abuse will act for the safety of that child.

Also the person, who makes an allegation, should have the rights, on behalf of the child, to insist that the police charge the offender with assault of a minor.

9/.

That no child should be interviewed by police without a relative being in attendance to re-assure the child that they are safe to speak out.

A police officer did interview my granddaughter on her own and I believe that his presence on his own would be overwhelming.

Even a child who is in trouble with the police has the right to have an adult with them when being interviewed.

10/.

I believe D.O.Cs. Should be more open to the public and they should investigate fully into reports of child abuse instead of hoping it will go away.

I reported the abuse to Child Protection, D.O.Cs. and the police and nothing was done which I believe should been looked at as matter of urgency because I tried to notify those people of child abuse.

Where else do people go when they tried so hard to do what we are told to do in the case of child abuse.

I can only hope and pray that more notice will be taken of people who are victims of bureaucracy and others who think they know what is right for people at grass root level.

Allen John Gilligan 3 Kent Street Niagara Park. 2250 N.S.W.