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Secretary: .....

Against the Presumption of Equal time for Parents who have separated

We teach our children not to take sweets from strangers and be bribed into their cars. Yet the abusers are allowed to do this to their own children and abuse their own child's trust through lies deceit and bribes.

Why does the legal system help women and their children away from abusive relationships, then send the children right back into that environment to continue going through it and be used as the pawns to get what they want from the mother?

Our personal dilemma as we are a close family, involves a situation where my sister was going out with a guy and fell pregnant to a guy who emotionally bound her to him trying to cut her off from her family and friends. He used animal steroids, took an assortment of drugs and consumed a lot of alcohol.

After two months of the baby being born she left him as he was on more drugs and went wild. He did not even know that the baby existed for the first two months and wrote letters saying this. We gave him as much visiting rights as he wanted (the baby was in my care during work hours while my sister went back to work) and this was to keep the peace as he became violent when he couldn't get his own way and he also has a history of road rage. He began doing things to the baby that made me uneasy and ill, and as things progressed we began inquiring to Docs and the police for help and to no avail, as we were told everything he was doing was wrong but nothing could be done. We managed to keep her safe from him

for nearly 3 years, as he could not keep his hands from being inside her clothes and down her pants, no matter what we dressed her in. He always wanted her pants off as soon as he visited. He liked only to use her as his showpiece saying he wanted to have people stop him and tell him what a beautiful baby he had. Finally after one year of only 2 phone calls he and his family took my sister back to court threatening they had a lot of money to fight her with until they got their way. And with all of our concerns and calls we had made she was told to prove it all in the family law court. Even supervised visits from an appointed court were denied.

This man has changed his name numerous times, to avoid taxes and loans he possessed in the different names and wouldn't pay back. When he lost his license for driving under the influence, he got another birth certificate in another name and went to Queensland and got another license under a false address and came back down here to work with his family who have supported him his whole life. My sister voiced her concerns about him taking her daughter and changing her and his name and moving away but she was ignored. He now has her fortnightly and has just gone to overnight visits. Not once in any visits in the first three years did he acknowledge to this child that he was her father. My sister had met someone else when this child was only a small baby and she knows him as her daddy. Now with these visits, the biological father is telling this child things that she is too young to understand and confusing her and making her lie "or people will be cranky with her". He is driving without a license with her in the car, but everytime we have voiced our concerns, we are told nothing can be done. The abuse is starting again and we are told until something actually happens to her the damage done that will scar her, then there is nothing we can do.

Many people we have spoken to, are also going through the same or similar situation and we feel that the government should be making the family law courts look at each individual case very finely and really assess these concerns before real damage is done and not after, when it is sometimes too late. These are innocent children and it is our responsibility to protect them from harm but we need help from the government to do that, to keep them safe so they will grow to lead a normal healthy life in society.