

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: **395**.....

Date Received: **7-8-03**.....

Secretary:

The following are a list of my submission as to how I believe the system could be improved.

The family law court need to look into every case individually and investigate the cause of the separation to help decide which party is putting their own interest's ahead of their family.

The family law court needs to be a much larger organization and operate in several major cities in each state. This would cost taxpayers a lot more but owing to the decisions to be made being of utmost importance to the stability of our future generations of children, the cost should be of little importance.

The family law court needs input from people who have been through situations regarding custody matters etc. as they are the people that really know what happens.

When property settlements are causing problems, the Family law court should take into account the party at fault in the separation and if it is proven that one party has been the cause of the break up. That person should forfeit a lot of their entitlements. If people knew in advance that they could be risking losing their entitlements, maybe they would think twice about running off and would try to resolve problems to save the relationship.

If the Family law court was a bigger organization and each matter was dealt with properly. This would prevent solicitors draining families of their assets to supposedly defend each party's rights.

After most custodial and settlement disputes the families are financially ruined and the custodial parent finds it hard to provide a good lifestyle for the children whilst the solicitors become wealthier.

IF BOTH SEPARATED PARTNERS CANNOT COME TO A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION WHICH ALLOWS THE CHILDREN TO LIVE A COMFORTABLE LIFESTYLE, THE FAMILY COURT SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER THE SITUATION AND ORDER THE PARENTS TO ABIDE BY INSTRUCTIONS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN.



Each parent should be entitled to at least 50% of custody if they can prove that they can manage the children appropriately.

If one parent leaves the family home and moves out of town or interstate, they should be the person responsible for costs of access to the children.

Men and women who become involved with a single mother/father should respect the rights of the biological parent and not try to take over the role of father/mother to the children unless the biological parent has completely deserted the children.

When men try to take over the father role of another man's child or women try to take over the mother role of another woman's child, this is a major cause of domestic disputes and the Family law court need to issue strict instructions in regard to these matters. Children need to be close to the biological parents but only provided that parent is a decent person.

IN MY SITUATION EXPLAINED ABOVE I WOULD LIKE FOR MY WIFE TO HAVE BEEN TREATED THE SAME WAY FOR BREACHING LEGAL CUSTODY ORDERS AS I BELIEVE I WOULD HAVE BEEN TREATED AS A MALE IF MATTERS WERE REVERSED.

A LOT OF PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT I HAVE BEEN TREATED UNFAIRLY.

I AM SURE THAT IF THE FAMILY LAW COURT OR THE MAGISTRATE IN THIS CASE TOOK THE TIME TO HEAR THE FULL DETAILS OF THIS CASE THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE IN MY FAVOR.

THIS IS WHY I BELIEVE THAT THE FAMILY LAW COURT NEED TO LOOK INTO THE FULL DETAILS OF EACH CASE BEFORE EACH DECISION IS MADE.

SEPARATIONS ARE ALWAYS GOING TO BE A PROBLEM AND FOR THE FUTURE OF ALL OF THE CHILDREN WHO ARE OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS, I BELIEVE SERIOUS STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO CONTROL ALL OF THE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.

Thanking you,
Steve West.