

Submission No: 697

Date Received: 8-8-03

Secretary: .....

To The Committee Secretary

Re. Joint Custody.

I request you to give great consideration to Joint Custody and applaud the government for approaching this policy. Children need impute from their fathers. Their fathers need to have a say in their upbringing and education

Children have a right to an education for a future, a choice of a career.

Children have a right to know their fathers and their grandparents, to have a stable a life as possible. They need love and affection from all members of their families. They don't need added Nan's and Pops, Uncles and Aunts coming and going.

Children need to be taught that to work for a living is beneficial and a privilege that the dole is there when the need exists not as a way to live

Mothers living on social security when the father has employment should live as close as possible to his home area as to allow the child or children to spend time with both parents and attend school without to much interruption to their lives. This would allow the father's time with the children also to attend school or other activities the children maybe involved in and also be involved in their upbringing and schooling.

There are a lot of mothers abusing their privileges of being mothers. In my opinion they use their children to get what they want and as a means of an income dragging their children from one place to another, in and out of schools not allowing their children a chance to get a decent education. I have been told that as long as the child attends a school the Education Department is not worried. I have also been told it is a form of abuse but because the child is not physically hurt no action is taken.

My now estranged daughter-in-law had two children and had had an abortion before she meet my son, (that should have been education of the birds and the bees) within a month of meeting him she was pregnant from then on she used that child as blackmail getting whatever she wanted which in the end was a wedding after another child was born. Then after seven months of marriage she left demanding he leave his job and move to where she had gone if he wanted his children. He had changed employment before on her demand. His girls are now four years old and nearly eighteen months.

She had left several times before returning when my son meet another of her demands, one of these demands was a wedding if he wanted his children.

With all her moves her seven year old is now at his fifth school and is repeating year one her eleven year old was told earlier this year she had a lot of work to do to be ready for high school next year I have lost count of how many schools she has been to. When I made any comment about her schooling. I was told she's smart she'll catch up. She is now in a different school again. My son and I want a better chance for these children and his two girls. Her young life was spent moving and changing schools unless things change I see the lives of these children having no future e.g the girls pregnant at fifteen on child support more for the government to support. My four year old granddaughter once said to me, "I'm going to a mother." One time they wanted to be a nurse or doctor or something else. When my son refused to move he attempted to

get custody but was told he would have no chance as he worked and as his children were half sisters to the other two the judges would keep them all together and it would be unlikely he would get custody of all four. The cost would be \$20,000.00 upward and practically no chance of getting the children. He now has to travel four hours to see these children. He has been a father to her children for five years and they don't know their own fathers.

We were brought up to work for a living and I brought my son up the same. I would like these children to have the same attitude.

My husband and I are very close to these children having them stay with us on holidays and minding them on many occasions. Being the grandparents to all of them. We miss them greatly. As yet she refuses to let the children come out to stay with us since she left except when they were with my son. We feel the little time they visit should be spent with their father. We miss out.

For some reason she has avoided getting all of these children christened or named. My son would like to have them christened. Although a lot of people don't believe in God these days I wouldn't like him to hold it against these children on judgement day. It breaks my heart to hear my four-year-old granddaughter say, "I miss you Nanny, do you miss me. Mummy took me away it's a real long way."

We thank you greatly for looking into Joint Custody and do hope you can make it law.

I realise I may sound bitter at the moment but I am really hurting and feel our family have been used at the expense of the children.

If you wish for names or to have any questions please contact me.

Please consider the children need love and affection and an education with a chance of a career.

I realise we are not the only family being affected in this way.

Thanking You

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4/8/03