

Re: HB: 6699

Dear Honorable Members of Judiciary Committee:

I wish I could start this as.....this is my story but it really is a nightmare; not a story. I filed for divorce from my mentally abusive husband January 2, 2007. From that moment on he played the Danbury Court System and all the attorneys involved like a finely tuned violin.

The disgrace of all of this is that "the system" allowed him to do so; all along him knowing that nothing would happen to him if he "promised" to do right by the son he "fathered"

From the day I filed until February 14, 2007 I never received any monies from my ex. On Valentine's Day of 2007 when he arrived to see his son for the 1st time since January 2 of that year *his MOTHER* presented me with a check for \$50.00 of which he said "my attorney said to give you something as child support to show that I am at least making an effort". Well this is the game he played throughout.

In February of 2007 the Danbury Superior Court ordered him to pay "X" amount of dollars per week and "X%" of daycare costs. I received a payment the 1st weekend of March of 2007 from *his SISTER* for the entire month of March. Then April came around and he did not make a payment when I dropped off Jakob, and said he can pay me "*WHEN HE FEELS LIKE IT*" because he's making an effort and his attorney said as long as you make the effort no judge will punish you and certainly no judge ever did.

When my Jake returned after the visitation and I questioned my ex as to where the child support was I was told "I'll give it to you when I am ready" I received only part of the monies and then May came and went with no payments. I filed contempt of court charges against him of which that day he showed up with cash and *HIS ATTORNEY* was sending my Attorney a check for a portion of the monies owed. The rest were to go into arrearages of which he had to pay back at a *MERE \$9* per week (which was a minute fraction of the weekly amount). A warning from the judge came saying "he had better not go into arrearages again" or there would be severe consequences.

Well that was the end of the end. Now my ex husband realized that if did not make payments on time it was no big deal that all the monies could go into an arrearage pot **AND THAT IS WHAT HE DID**. Payments came sporadically through September of 2007 and never in the full amount owed for Jakob.

Then August 2007 was the last time any payment was made. Begging my attorney to file contempt charges was a joke (I was told it would cost me more in attorney fees to go after him in court times than what he owed for back owed so he refused (I ended up firing that attorney).

Then his attorney said that she did not know what the big deal was she had a client that owed over 50k in back owed child support and what I was looking for was miniscule in comparison.

Jakob's went from September 2007 all the way through January 2009 before getting one penny from the person who fathered him.

Note that in May of 2008 when the divorce was finalized that yet again another judge gave him a walk and took all the back owed amount of child support and put it into arrearage payments. Even though I proved to another court in CT that he had purposely quit his job to avoid paying child support.

The judge who presided over the divorce on May 13, 2008 told him again not to go into acreages or he'll face jail time. AGAIN HE GOT AWAY WITH NOT SUPPORTING THE CHILD THAT HE FATHERED.

Not even a dime of child support was paid by him from September 2007 until January 2009 when he was arrested in probate court and was able to come up with almost \$2k in back owed to get out of jail. How could someone who has a cell phone, smokes regularly and DRINKS OFTEN afford all of those things but not pay one dime to help?

WHAT IN MY OPINION NEEDS TO BE CHANGED?

1ST – Regardless of your sex if you are required to pay child support and you don't you should not be allowed to see your child.

2nd – If you are not working (legitimately or under the table) and have gone more than 30 day without payment then you need to be ordered to get a job within 1 month (even if it is below what you want i.e.: fast food, retail, ANYTHING TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD)

3rd – If you still do not have work then you for every week you are in default you should spend 1 day in jail.

4TH – If you are in default of not paying more than 3 times in a 12 month period then you should spend a minimum of 1 week in jail. 2 weeks for the 2nd offense, 3 weeks for the 3rd offense and so forth.

5th – If for some reason your rights are terminated and you happen to owe any monies in an arrearage plan then the arrearage amount to be paid back should be what your current order of child support was at the time of your termination. Not to be paid back with a ridiculous amount. (While awaiting my turn in Child Support Court people owing 50k+ in back owed child support were required to pay ONLY \$15 per week. That is ridiculous. You cannot get any loan for \$50k and only pay \$60 per month with no interest.

6th – Interest should be charged to everyone in default and that interest should go to either the state in lieu of raising taxes or to a fund to help woman who are abused (mentally or physically) get free legal representation. That interest should be at 15% of the amount owed. It's a win-win situation.

CT has Husky to help children with medical costs, Care for Kids to help with day care and DCF who claim to help with child protection. WHAT IS OUT THERE TO ENSURE CHILD SUPPORT? NOTHING! Something needs to be done to help single parents take care of their children and to SERIOUSLY PUNISH the dead-beat parent.

The children suffer because it is usually the parent with primary/sole custody who has to work multiple jobs to support the child while the other parent gets away without being responsible for the child.

I urge you to consider my nightmare and my suggestions. Things cannot stay the way they. The system is flawed. It needs to be fixed!

Thank you -

Hyra Cohen – Danbury CT

Date	Payment Amount	How Received	Balance Owed
Balance forward			\$6,999.00
February 4, 2009	\$1,290.00	State - Check	\$5,709.00
February 12, 2009	\$41.50	State - Check	\$5,667.50
February 25, 2009	\$41.50	State - Direct Deposit	\$5,626.00
February 25, 2009	\$41.50	State - Direct Deposit	\$5,584.50
March 5, 2009	\$41.50	State - Direct Deposit	\$5,543.00
March 13, 2009	\$41.50	State - Direct Deposit	\$5,501.50
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Date	Amount Paid	Child Support	Day Care	Arrearage Bal.	Cash	Check	Total
January 4, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29	\$1,930.00			
January 11, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29	\$2,064.29			
January 17, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29	\$2,198.58			
January 25, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29	\$2,332.87			
Total January 08	\$0.00	\$364.00	\$173.16				

Date	Amount Paid	Child Support	Day Care	Arrearage Bal.	Cash	Check	Total
February 1, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29	\$2,467.16			
February 8, 2008		\$91.00	\$58.29	\$2,616.45			
February 15, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29	\$2,750.74			
February 22, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29	\$2,885.03			
February 29, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29	\$3,019.32			
Total February 08	\$0.00	\$455.00	\$231.45	\$0.00			

Date	Amount Paid	Child Support	Day Care	Other	Cash	Check	Total
March 7, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29		\$3,153.61		
March 14, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29		\$3,287.90		
March 21, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29		\$3,422.19		
March 28, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29		\$3,556.48		
Total March 08	\$0.00	\$364.00	\$173.16	\$0.00			

Date	Amount Paid	Child Support	Day Care	Other	Cash	Check	Total
April 4, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29		\$3,690.77		
April 11, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29		\$3,825.06		
April 18, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29		\$3,959.35		
April 25, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29		\$4,093.64		
Total March 08	\$0.00	\$364.00	\$173.16	\$0.00			

Chuck started working full time as of December 11, 2007. For the following weeks he should have paid \$199 not \$91.00 per week. That is a difference of \$108.00 per week. He owes that for the following dates December 14th, December 28th, January 4th, January 11th, January 17th, January 25th, February 1st, February 8th, February 15th, February 22, & February 29th. 11 weeks x \$108.00 = \$1,188.00

Chuck never came to see Jake on 2/4 after court order. Jake had to stay in day care 1/2 hour later. Additional charges accrued of \$15.00. See letter from day-care.

I am assuming that by the time we go to court on March 7th it will be an official order of \$199 per week. So the obvious figure of arrears is going to be more if he continues to not pay.

Date	Amount Paid	Child Support	Day Care	Other		Cash	Check	Total
May 2, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29					\$4,227.93
May 9, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29					\$4,362.22
May 16, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29					\$4,496.51
May 23, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29					\$4,630.80
May 30, 2008		\$91.00	\$43.29					\$4,765.09
Total March 08	\$0.00	\$455.00	\$216.45	\$0.00				