

Testimony of David Kelman
In FAVOR of Committee Bill #5505
AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILY COURT PROCEEDINGS
For Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March, 2015

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am an involved father of two children. When I was divorced in 2003 both of my children were minors. Now they are legal adults both in college. While I was a joint legal custodian and joint residential custodian, I was the non-custodial parent who had to fight hard to remain in my children's lives. I feel the family court system failed me and my children, and fails many non-custodial parents.

I am in favor of Committee Bill #5505 because I feel it will help other parents and children from suffering the pain I and my children endured for 14 years while my children were minors and I was forced to have a GAL involved in our case. Today as a result of unresolved parental conflict, I feel my relationship with my children is strained.

When I raised issues of parental alienation and failure of my co-parent interference in my good and reasonable parenting the Court and the guardian ad litem did little to ensure our children had the best possible relationship with both parents.

When I filed a motion requesting that my then-minor children attend mental health counseling with me, my ex-wife testified and the GAL both testified against our children engaging in therapy. The GAL never sought the input from a qualified mental health professional before testifying. Ultimately, the Court sided with the GAL and denied my request without any input from a mental health professional to see if our family would benefit from such counseling.

To this day, I cannot understand how a judge could deny a father's request to try to improve his relationship with his children with the assistance of a qualified mental health professional, or how the GAL had the audacity to see he felt he was just as qualified as a mental health professional in determining if our family would have benefited from counseling.

Children need both parents.

I urge all Committee members to vote in FAVOR of Committee Bill #5505.

Thank you for your kind attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

David Kelman
West Hartford, CT

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