

My name is Pedro Garcia III.

The first thing I wish to do, is advocate for the state's adoption to presume that shared custody is in the best interest of a minor child in any action involving the custody, care and upbringing of a child unless evidence is shown in said interest against such an action. Unless a guardian has knowledge or evidence contrary to the belief that both guardians are capable of raising a child, by providing for and instilling morals and values, then the state should adopt a starting point of shared custody.

My second comment is to beg the task force to use the resources at their disposal to not decide whether or not an institution capable of corruption should be allowed to continue to sway decisions and/or prolong the rulings of the court. The guardian ad litem only convolutes a system that is already in disarray and needs reform of its own.

October 6th 2009, marked the end of a year long pursuit to gain custody of my son, Pedro Garcia IV. I sought full custody on the grounds that I was better suited to instill moral values and provide for him.

Roughly two months before that date, my ex-wife and I were in the office of Michael Del Santo of Meriden's family court. He asked me if I had started another relationship since the dissolution of the marriage to which I disclosed I was in fact seeing someone. He turned to my ex-wife and asked the same to which she adamantly claimed she was not. I had prior knowledge that she was not only involved with someone, but had moved him into the two bedroom apartment she shared with my son and three other children. I told Mr Del Santo that she had been lying and begged him to use all his resources to find out the truth. My stance of being better suited to instill morality could have been confirmed had Mr Del Santo and the state chose to investigate my claim of perjury. Instead I was told "Pedro, you sound like a jealous ex-husband."

October 6th 2009 I received a call at work to rush to the hospital. My ex-wife's stepfather met me at the entrance to the emergency room and informed me my son was dead. It was later confirmed he was murdered by the very person Mr Del Santo claimed I was only jealous of.

I apologize if I am using this forum out of context, but it is only because I feel so strongly that reform should not be focused on the guardian ad litem's but on the practices of family court and its officers. Please bear in mind there are other state run organizations that can do the job of the guardian ad litem in determining what is best for the child without the possibility corruption for financial gain. Thank you.