

Dear Task Committee:

It is the God-given right for all parents to share equally in the raising and welfare of their child after a divorce, or in the case I am familiar with, parents who never married. I am personally close to one particular father who has fought the court system for 4 years (his daughter is almost 5), and has spent a huge amount of money on attorneys, GAL's, and related court costs. He has been rational, fair-minded and reasonable with his dealings with the court and the mother. This man participated in his daughter's upbringing from the first day she took a breath. His daughter loves him unconditionally, and her face lights up the minute she sees him. He disciplines her, he plays with her, he stimulates her mind. She is the happiest child I ever witnessed while being with her Dad. Unfortunately, the mother of this child has fought him tooth and nail to keep his visitations to a minimum, and has brought him to court numerous times on petty issues and cost him not only a fortune in court and related costs, but undue stress, due to her bitterness towards him. This, in the long run, will hurt this beautiful little girl. She will soon be old enough to know and feel the stress of the relationship with the mother. Eventually, she'll be torn between his love and her mother's love. This is not the position a beautiful, striving little girl should be put into. She needs the right to be with each equally, to grow with her Dad, as well as her mother. I am URGING your committee to please pass a bill for shared custody for parents. I am ecstatic that a task force has been put into place, and hope and pray that a FAIR conclusion will be reached to determine what is good for the CHILD, and not be based solely on what the mother or the courts deem fair.

Thanking you for your time, hoping the RIGHT thing will be done for the children.

Sincerely,
Janice Sanderson