

I am writing to provide written testimony about the custody issues surrounding my divorce and the court system's failures in this regard.

My legal separation began in late 2007 when my son was 13. During the separation, I was able to see my son regularly. When my ex filed for divorce in 2010, problems began in earnest. She decided to pursue an aggressive litigation which cost us well over \$100K. During that time she prevented my son from seeing me claiming "he doesn't want to". The court took no action.

In our divorce decree there are many clear agreements regarding shared parenting. Despite many motions for contempt on my part costing in excess of \$30K to pursue, the court refused to rule against my ex's claim that my son shouldn't have to see me if he didn't want to despite the divorce decree. During this period there is ample evidence that my ex disparaged me repeatedly to both of my children and many others in our circle of acquaintances. She intercepted mail and electronic communications between me and my children and this was proven in court. She was told to stop by the court and did not.

In the end she has succeeded in keeping me from my children for 6 years. They have grown up without me, my family and her family as well -- the children are alienated and isolated from all their relatives. They have had no contact with any grandparents, cousins or other members of the family on either my side or my ex's. This is likely due to a combination of PAS for the children and deepening mental troubles for my ex.

The court has had ample chance to intervene in favor of balance to the benefit of the children. The court repeatedly refused to do anything in support of 2-sided child rearing. Though the court repeatedly sided for me on many minor issues -- property and the like -- on the major issue of shared parenting, the court ignored the issue. As a result, my children have suffered immeasurably. They have lost their most important source of long-lasting emotional support. They are trapped in a world shaped by a single person. The court couldn't have cared less.

This needs to change. For the children and for the other parent -- me.

Please contact me at 203-673-9693 for further details or to answer questions.

Sincerely,

John Steinert