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30-3-2015

To whom it may concern ,

I accept the fact many many women are the victims of domestic violence and abuse , and I admire the work Rosie Battie is doing to make inroads into this major problem

My concern is while attention and help is concentrated on women and children ,the good fathers out there , and there are many , are being overlooked .

My direct concern is the treatment my son has had to endure over the past 3 years , since his now ex partner took their 2 children and left the home . He has had an intervention order served against him , many allegations of violence , both physical, mental and financial, none of which have ever been proved ,because everything was a fabrication ,but unfortunately the courts believe the women even with no proof whatsoever.

He was ,during the time between the intervention order and the court case to dispute the avo , denied any contact with his children , a period of 5 months , At the court case , he was told the children were afraid of him ,which was disproved , and he had access to the children and overnight stays with no problems .

Court orders for access to the children were agreed on by parties .The mother then constantly changed access times , contravened court orders and was generally negative and was verbally abusive to the father and his family by text and email ,all of which has been recorded by the father .

After repeated attempts by the mother to press charges ,inferring the avo was broken and police visits ,nothing was ever substantiated .

When the children visited the father they were happy to see him ,there were no problems such as bed wetting, nightmares and no problems when he dropped them off at school .

Over the next many months , the mother frequently denied access visits with various reasons and she frequently made complaints that the children were not given proper treatment after any minor injuries etc . all of which was never substantiated .After 3 years prior to school holidays he was told the children were afraid of him and did not want to stay with him , no reason was given and the father has had no contact with them for over 6 months .

He has tried mediation and counselling as ordered by the courts with no positive results . The only avenue for the fathers is the impossibly expensive courts ,with no definite results , just to be told to consult mediation and counsellors .

They are forced to pay child support , which my son has no objection to, except that when he has no contact with the children the payment increases through no fault of his own .His income is checked frequently yet very little checking appears to be done on the other party

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I am asking the people concerned with domestic violence to continue their work with helping the women and children , which is very important , but please consider the men , the fathers that are very important.in the raising of their children .

Where is the help for the fathers , the welfare of the children depends on both parents as stressed by the magistrates,What are the statistics on fathers suffering depression ,thinking of , or committing suicide, or just giving up and going on the dole .

I am all for supporting the abused women ,but please do not forget the men .

The changes I would like to see addressed are as follows ,

1 Intervention orders , both parties to be checked by police for 24 hrs / 48 hrs for the safety of both parties .

2 Affordable helpful advice for men , re their entitlements , coping with child support and contravention of orders ,and coping with the isolation from their children , and the withdrawal of their rights as a father .

3 Mothers appear to nearly always get the most custody of children and often dictate when fathers can see their children. In the advent of joint custody , that means just that ,unless otherwise agreed on by both parties .

4 Court orders agreed on by both parties should be adhered to ,at present contravention of orders is not treated as breaking the law , and to persue this in court is frowned on , and each court appearance is very expensive and non productive .

5 Young children can, and are manipulated by the dominant parent ,yet their evidence , when interviewed by counsellors and psychologists is completely regarded as the truth , when in fact it may be influenced by a frightening demanding parent .

6 Perhaps the introduction , in schools , of sessions to teach children that violence in the home is totally unacceptable .

Hoping these matters can be addressed to help mainly the children ,as they need both parents in agreement to help in their emotional growth as often dictated by magistrates ,

Yours sincerely

