

RCFV - ANONYMOUS



29th May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make a submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

I would like to highlight the struggle a male victim of family violence has with the legal system and why they may end becoming violent towards a woman. How early intervention may help prevent some cases.

A brief history of my case.

I have a son [REDACTED], who was born [REDACTED] years ago, in [REDACTED]. Shortly after [REDACTED], [REDACTED]'s Mum and I separated as [REDACTED] became very controlling towards me. For the next two years I only managed to see [REDACTED] for about 40 hours in total. [REDACTED] would only allow me to see [REDACTED] in her place with her present, dictating the rules. I always left the place in tears. I wrote several times to [REDACTED] to please allow me to see [REDACTED] without her interference. She never replied.

Court orders were made in late 2006 allowing me time with [REDACTED] away from [REDACTED] but she continued to interfere and took advantage of the [REDACTED] times per fortnight I had to see her in a park to collect or drop off [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] would continue to bully and intimidate me and never allowed a changeover to happen at a safe place where witnesses were present. I had to do most of the travelling [REDACTED] km each way and some visits were for only three hours.

Never once were the changeover times negotiable to make it easier for me. I have been lucky to have understandable employers that allowed me very flexible hours that enabled me to have [REDACTED]. No less than five of my employers have received letters from [REDACTED] with false allegations made about them. The letters were also sent to the Police, Vic roads Worksafe, the Education Department and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, necessitating investigations that wasted everybody's time and money.

Now [REDACTED] has been at school for [REDACTED] years, this has been a safe place for me to collect [REDACTED] from. To avoid [REDACTED] as much as possible I try not to have to communicate unnecessarily with her. [REDACTED] still interferes by not having [REDACTED] at school when I am meant to have him to force me to agree to her terms or [REDACTED] does not spend time with me. When this happens [REDACTED] does not allow me even phone contact with [REDACTED]. I once gave [REDACTED] a phone so we could stay in touch and [REDACTED] smashed it on the first day. If I call [REDACTED] to tell him I have arranged to have someone else to collect him from school as I might be late, [REDACTED] extracts this information from [REDACTED] and removes him from school early.

RCFV - ANONYMOUS

█ is desperate to spend more time with me and █ tells him it is against the law for that to happen. █ said he told his doctor he wants to spend more time with me and that █ made him leave the room while she spoke to the doctor after this. When I asked the doctor he confirmed this did happen.

On █, █ rang me to ask if I could get him from school on Thursday as Friday was a day off. I made arrangements to be back in time as I was in █ at the time. On █ I waited at the school only to be told █ had not attended that day. █, on hearing that █ had wanted the extra day would not allow this. Instead she wanted me to negotiate with her to get him from her the next day. As I do not wish to be intimidated and try to avoid █ at all costs I did not get █.

I tried to call █ many times after this never getting answered so I left messages for █ to call me. I also left a message asking █ if he would like to have his birthday at his Mums as I was working in █ that fortnight. I left a lot more messages for the next two weeks, asking █ what he wanted to do. On not getting a reply I made arrangements to be back in time.

On █ after still no phone answers I went to █ school and waited for █. When █ came out he did not look for me and went off playing with friends. I went after █ to ask what was going on. █ said his Mum let him hear the message I left about having the birthday and that was arranged. He was not aware of any other messages. █ was extremely confused about what had happened excited about the birthday party and was surprised I didn't know. I told him it would be OK and he could stay with the person his Mum had arranged to pick him up, but first to come with me to the principal to let █ tell someone what his mother is doing. █ felt better after speaking to the principal about this.

These last three paragraphs are just a tiny sample of what █ and I have to deal with. It has been eleven years now that █ has got away with being like this. She always manipulates and controls the situation by using her control over █ as a weapon. I believe █'s behaviour is having a permanent emotional and psychological effect on █ and me.

I have tried to resolve these matters through mediation many times, but they are powerless to intervene. I have been to councillors and psychologists; they are apologetic and cannot help. Department of Human Services close the case after █ convinces them there is no problem. I have been to family violence centres and they have all said this must stop but are powerless to help as they are only funded to help female victims. I have been to the police several times and am told to deal with the matter myself. I have taken the matter back to the family court to try and change the orders only to get told that because there is no sexual or physical violence, nothing will be done about it. To make it worse I am ordered to pay █'s costs as well.

For these reasons I fear to bring up the matter again, █ and I continue to suffer in silence. Nobody has ever let █ have a say in any of this. It seems that nobody is interested unless a murder or some other disaster takes place by which time it is too late, whether the crime was committed by the victim or the perpetrator.

RCFV - ANONYMOUS

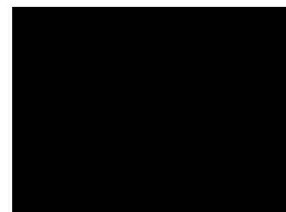
I have been very lucky as I can cry when I get upset or angry. I can fully understand why some people when put in my situation will crack and become a perpetrator of violence. I believe when someone comes for help they need to be taken seriously. It is so wrong that no one takes a genuine interest in cases like these. I know most women are victims through no fault of their own. There are others like in my case which will be prevented with early intervention.

If anyone reading this wants to know more about this matter, I am willing to go through more detail. It is too upsetting for me to write and relive more about the sad events if no one is even interested in this.

Yours sincerely

██████████

RCFV - ANONYMOUS

9th December 2009**To Whom It May Concern:**

I am a concerned parent for the welfare of my son and am asking for your help! Over the time of my son's life and my access visitations with him my ex-partner has played emotional games, including family violence, with both of us and bouncing us from pillar to post with allegations, court hearings and other means which have taken their toll on us both. My son is left in despair at times wondering what it is he has done wrong to have to return to his mother and so on.

I write this from sheer frustration, as I have sought help from numerous groups but to no avail as I am either not female or fall into the general criteria for these support groups and plus police are of the opinion 'just get over it.' I m denied the right to see my child and he to see his father.

I am the father of a [REDACTED] year old boy who has been denied the basic human right to know the rest of his family because his mother wants to claim him all to herself. She has made it extremely difficult and unsafe for him to have a father in his life, in her endeavour to cause the greatest hindrance. She has never once considered the wellbeing of her own child in her selfish desire to cause conflict.

It is now at the point where I am virtually denied and unable the opportunity of being [REDACTED]'s father, through her games and her emotional manipulation and abuse, it is no longer bearable, I cannot tolerate this anymore. I desire no relationship with [REDACTED], the mother of my son. I am unable to have anything to do with my son while she is legally allowed to behave like this. Until such time as this matter is resolved I am to have to bear life without [REDACTED]. Please don't get me wrong, I love my son dearly and will miss him very much, however, my own mental health is important and I am resolved at this stage to cease as to prevent it from deteriorating any further. Over the last five (5) years I have done my utmost to build a strong relationship (particularly in the last 3 years) with [REDACTED] whilst enduring extreme hardship and difficulty I have with all the interference and emotional abuse from [REDACTED]. She has gone to great lengths to interfere in my relationship with [REDACTED] and anyone who has tried to support me through this. For example, even contacting the Education Department regarding the local primary school and my activity there.

I have tried in every possible way to resolve this matter but [REDACTED] refuses every time and insists on continuing to prevent me or [REDACTED] to have any form of protection from her behaviour while he is trapped in her care.

Unfortunately, I must give up and abandon him as I have exhausted every avenue in my search for help in the five years since [REDACTED] was born. I no longer believe there is any help if you are a male victim of family violence. I have been subject to every form of violence other than sexual or physical. Police tell you to live with it. Courts do nothing to prevent it. Family violence support groups only support women. I am now of the firm belief that I must wait and leave [REDACTED] without a father until he is able to have his own view legally approved. I fear for what will come of him in the hands of a perpetrator of family violence and a compulsive liar, but I am powerless to do anything about it.

RCFV - ANONYMOUS

-2-

Also, unfortunately the legal system allows for people to behave in this way. When I have sought help through the legal system I am punished further because it is not recognised as violence or it is not taken seriously if you are male. Nobody is held accountable. When [REDACTED] makes the same complaint, totally untrue, about me, she gets an instant intervention order on me. How can there be justice? People like her clog the courts and get away with perjury, while genuine victims continue to suffer. Something must be done to prevent this going on. Every form of information about family violence says this behaviour is unacceptable and not to be tolerated, it should state that it is only violence if you are female, so not to raise the hopes of an unfortunate victim.

Please help I am concerned for my son.

I would appreciate your contact and any information that you can assist me with,

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

RCFV - ANONYMOUS

[REDACTED]

15th May 2009

[REDACTED]

Re: Mediation with [REDACTED]
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter to clear up any misunderstanding in regards to mediation you have proposed for myself and [REDACTED], as the telephone calls I received from your centre on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were very distressing and insensitive. The people involved came across as if they had already made a judgement about my situation without knowing the details of this case and as to why I am hesitating to attend mediation again.

I have a current certificate by a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner which was issued at [REDACTED] after mediation failed. I was wondering why mediation was not recommenced at this location as they had already dealt with the matter.

I have attended at least [REDACTED] mediation sessions with [REDACTED] and every time she will not consider any proposal other than her own. If I do not accept her proposal, no changes are made. Unfortunately [REDACTED] has a blatant disregard of court orders and at present is in constant breach of them every week.

This conflict has been going on since before [REDACTED] was born, over [REDACTED] years now and is showing a pattern which is getting worse and it is putting me under a lot of pressure and is also very time consuming and costly and severely restricting my employment. Unfortunately I have to have contact with [REDACTED] as she refuses to allow changeovers at a safe place. Almost every time I have contact with [REDACTED] she is making allegations against me and I have to take steps to protect myself.

I now have concrete evidence to prove that [REDACTED] has become a compulsive liar, and all her accusations are false or totally out of proportion. [REDACTED] is in continuous breach of court orders and has previously never considered a proposal of mine. She insists on [REDACTED] being subject to witness conflict and me being subject to intractable treatment, controlling behaviour, intimidation, provocation and family violence from his mother. I believe she is doing psychological and emotional harm to [REDACTED] and myself.

I believe her behaviour is seriously affecting my relationship with my son. [REDACTED] is strict on court orders on my part and never considers [REDACTED]'s wellbeing when I try to keep him out of harm or extreme conditions. She continues to make serious allegations against me and interferes with anyone who supports me in the situation I have to endure.

RCFV - ANONYMOUS

RCFV - ANONYMOUS

██████ makes every attempt to entrench the conflict and will come across to others unfamiliar with the situation that she means well which is not the case as unfortunately ██████ has become a compulsive liar. At previous mediation I have been intimidated and humiliated and ██████ has even said she will ensure that ██████ gets less time with me if I take the matter to court.

I hope this gives you a better understanding of the matter I am dealing with.

Yours sincerely

████████████████████

Enc previous attempt to negotiate.