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Submission into the Inquiry of Child Custody and Arrangements in the event of Family Separation
Terms of Reference

Having regard to the interest of the Child (Children) each case is different and must be viewed individually. I know of two cases concerning fathers who have abused the trust with access (friends) and another where the father was caught trying to get a passport for his son not daughter back to the United States where he was born.

In my case I was not married to [redacted]'s father or lived in a defacto relationship. [redacted] was three weeks old father's choice, then saw him until [redacted] was 14 months old, then cleared off until he had got himself into a permanent relationship (married) to a woman with a 16 year old son and a 14 year old daughter, he came back when [redacted] was four, when it was back to Court for access once a fortnight on a Sunday from 9am to 5pm. He also has another son in New Zealand never met aged 17 years or so and doesn't support any of them.

[redacted] has been in my care since he was born, I have sole custody and have been to court twice, he will not mediate. Even the Solicitors had trouble with mediation. There has been no contact between myself and [redacted] father. Maintenance is a laugh as he works as a Courier Driver (sub contractor) and pays \$21.67 a month this money is put an Education account I have set up for [redacted] to attend High School and further education.

[redacted] attends a private school and plays Soccer, Tennis, Tee Ball (Base Ball) and Swimming where he has contact with other children and their fathers.

When [redacted] spends time with his father comes home with a Headache or not himself (upset) which lasts for about a week until the next visit. [redacted] has told me on occasion that he does not want to go with his father at these times but is made to go with him, when he is sick he is questioned to make sure he really is sick and not a story, as you can tell this would not work.

I believe this custody situation will work for some people but not for everyone as every case is different and needs research.