
THE CANADIAN FAMILY FORUM

Open forum about legal and social issues affecting Canadian families – Mon. July 10, 2000

Child support for adults nothing more than a court sanctioned “Fraud Racket”

This discriminatory practice of forcing 'non-custodial' parents of adult children to continue supporting their adult offspring is, pure and simple, extortion at its best. Remember also, that these monies are paid to the "custodial" mother who may disperse these monies as she sees fit. The adult 'child' may or may not receive the money in any event.

I wonder, how does one still have "custody" of an adult? Under all other areas of the law, once you are 18, you are considered an adult with all its rights, privileges and obligations. Not, however, in our screwed up family law system.

I am married, for example, to a man who has a 23-year old daughter who has not spoken to him for over 8 years. The girl's vindictive mother has programmed the child to hate the father. He does not know her whereabouts, and each time he has to go to court to find out where she is, or even if she is still alive. This costs thousands of dollars EACH time. He has recently discovered that this 23-year old daughter has been working at IBM for well over a year, and has still not been able to end the support. He pays not only **FULL CHILD SUPPORT**, but **IN ADDITION, PAYS TOWARDS HER UNIVERSITY TUITION**. Only problem is that she is not attending any post-secondary institution, or at least, not at the moment. Needless to say, as soon as my husband initiates court action to have the daughter removed as a 'child of the marriage', she will then register back to school. It could take her 6 or seven years or longer just to obtain a degree! What is the incentive to achieve graduation when the non-custodial parent will be forced to pay indefinitely. Further, the courts really never award return of the monies that have been fraudulently taken by the ex-spouse and the adult child. It is the only situation I know of where you can commit fraud, and be rewarded for it. In addition, the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act prohibits the non-custodial payer from obtaining any information on that 'adult child' in any event. This is insanity! Nor is there any enforcement of court orders requiring provision of proof to the non-custodial payer. Too bad, they say, and these adult children perpetrate deceit and cheating with impunity.

Certainly, the government would not tolerate, not for a moment, that someone would be collecting employment insurance, or welfare, whilst working and then when caught, not be penalized and in fact, be allowed to continue to receive benefits ad infinitum.

Such is our democratic way of handling these children of divorce. I, myself, am somewhat resentful that my parents stayed together. I was not given the monies I wanted for post-secondary education; had they been divorced, my presumably non-custodial Dad (they are the majority of non-custodial parents) would be forced to pay for me and I could have a grand time.

And what are these adult 'children' learning? To abuse the system, to lie, cheat and steal and to get away with it! We have a system perfectly set up to do just that. There are no penalties, and they have all the time in the world to perpetrate their fraud. These children are certainly not going to be the kind of model citizens who are going to be of benefit to our society in the years to come.

What a racket!

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