

Submission by Mike Bowen

Dear Sir,

What a complete and utter joke your legal system is. I would be ashamed to be a part of it. It has just cost my daughter at least 1 million pounds of her inheritance and that is a fact.

I have never been married but I have a daughter from an ex girlfriend. I was quite happy to pay child support following the guidelines of the CSA which is simple. 15% of your after tax income. Do they do this in Jersey? Of course not. The lawyers throw it around for a few years charge £400 per hour and then they broadly follow the CSA guideline and inflict huge amounts of stress on their clients. Now I pay child support following the guidelines which is less than I offered to pay in the first place to try to avoid court. But I still have to pay the mothers legal fees.

I have also been ordered by the court to sell a house that I let (My daughter's inheritance) and hand over a quarter of a million pounds to the mother of my daughter so that she can live in a new house without the burden of a mortgage. And they say that sex discrimination is illegal. It's actually endorsed by the courts here. As more and more mothers find out about the result of this case there is going to be a long queue of them outside the court. I have sold the house and paid off the mortgage on it to release the money but I am still left in debt so I now have to sell a second house to pay all her lawyers fees (£65 000), pay off my lawyer, pay my other debts and pay the mortgage on the flat in which I live. The mother is to sell her house and use the equity towards the cost of a bigger house. Oh yes she has convinced the court that she needs a three bedroomed house because she needs an au pair ! A single mother with a child that is nearly 8 needs an au pair. I can't believe that a court would fall for such a story.

So my daughter will lose not just the two houses that I have to sell but her mothers house too. When my daughter leaves university the £250 000 is to be returned to me but it will buy nothing then and the mothers share of the house will buy her nothing.

I even offered to let my daughters mother borrow a house free of charge to save all the buying and selling (which of course I have been ordered to pay) but no. That was not good enough.

I have been ordered to pay all the private school fees for a school that I may or may not want my daughter to go to.

The JAFKAS officer said that 3 nights out of every 14 is the correct amount of time for a child to be with their father and overturning that was going to cost heaven knows how much in lawyers fees so I just had to sit down and accept what I was given. How can there be no sex discrimination there?

This is in no way rewarding a person for working hard and saving during their life it is simply punishing them.

So get ready for a lot of cases coming to the family court.

This is of course a brief version of what happened but the facts are correct. If you have any interest in a more detailed account I will be more than happy to give it to you but nothing will change

because lawyers have nothing to gain from simply following the CSA guidelines.

Best regards

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