

Dear Senator,

May 18th , 2018

I hope the attached letters from parents calls your attention to a need for our nation to recognize & protect Family Rights. We've tried to keep them to one page and included pictures to help put a 'face' on parents & children unjustly separated.

We want you to hear them in their own words. We can't vouch for the accuracy of these tales and hope you'll understand their bitterness and frustration. The anger is directed at people involved, but the real source of all these issues is a system that has failed to recognize and protect fundamental Family Rights. *Many times it encourages & rewards needless conflict between parents.*

You'll also find a one page 'Family Rights Act' that defines our goals. It's hard to believe a crook stealing a 6-pack of beer has more due process protections than a parent and child facing separation/estrangement for life? A patchwork of state/federal laws all with the goal of protecting children has grown beyond belief in the last 50 years.

We mean well, but we don't do well. Our society improves when fundamental human rights are recognized and protected first – and very few items are more fundamental than Family. We'd ask you to do two things:

Let us know how you feel about endorsing at least the first sentence of our Family Rights Act. "That when a child is born, both biological parents have a right to know."

As time permits meet with a small group of our parents. The goal is NOT to put you on the spot, but to only let you hear their experiences and pain.

Best regards!
John Murtari

34 Franklin Street
Lyons, NY 14489
315-430-2702
jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org

Dear Senator,

May 17, 2018

My name is Brent Vrooman and I have a daughter that is about to turn 10 in June. I have spent the last 8 years fighting to see my child more and to be able to watch her grow up as any parent should have the right to do.



I used to have my daughter Tuesdays and Thursdays and every other weekend after my ex decided that we weren't going to work, shortly after her birth. This was a verbal agreement between us that later resulted in her taking my Thursdays away. When the Judge asked why all my ex had to say was "because I feel as if its in the best interest of our child."

There was no explanation or a need for one. No questions asked, the judge accepted it and my Thursdays were just like that, terminated. That left me with just Tuesdays and every other weekend. I don't have a history of violence, abuse, or any drug/alcohol related problems. My daughter has cried countless nights asking to be able to see me more. I have tried telling her mom, nothing. I have tried addressing this with the courts, nothing.

I have been constantly told time and time again that "what you have is as good as its going to get," or "Consider yourself lucky." That is lucky?

It HAS taken me nearly three YEARS to equal ONE year of my daughter life. That is not lucky. That is a disgrace. My poor daughter cries for me and nothing gets done about it. I have someone else determining what is in the best interest of MY child. However, nobody can ever answer the question I have asked countless times. What is that best interest? for a child to grow up without a father?

One that has made sure her school work is done, who reads with her every night, one that wipes away her tears or kisses her boo boos. One who has spent countless years fighting for the chance to watch his daughter grow up, who taught her he to tie her shoes and ride a bike. I have spent thousands and thousands of dollars fighting for my right as a parent to have equal time with my little girl like i once had.

Some would have given up. But I promise you one thing, I will not. Why, because tears are worth more to me than any amount of money could ever. So Please help us. **Please make this right so I can spend the rest of my daughters child hood watching her grow up.** It is never too late to give back what was stolen from me. The right to be the best father one can be.

Sincerely,
Brent Vrooman

Dear Senator,

May 16, 2018

The greatest hurt one can feel is being denied their own children. Living just one day without them is a pain I wish upon no one. Since October 3, 2016, I have spent each day fighting to have my girls Olivia and Alexandra in my life as they once were. It appears to no avail. The Tompkins County Family Court and its machinery hiding behind the 'Best Interest of the Child Statute' are performing nothing other than State Sponsored Kidnapping. My girls were stripped from me after I was accused ex parte of calling their mother names, on the phone absent any witness. This can be considered by some Judges, a Family Offense of harassment whereby they will issue an Order of Protection cutting off all custodial time and communication with one's children. In my defense to retain custody, I presented to the Family Court pictorial evidence of years of physical assault, abuse, and property destruction by my ex-wife no less to myself and the children during our marriage. Some of these were admitted to under oath before she was directed to take her 5th amendment privilege. I presented testimony of upwards of \$20,000 of marital funds diverted to a secret account, once again admitted to under oath by my ex. I on the other hand was never found to be a harm or a threat to my children as the Family Court determined. Yet, the mother was awarded Full Custody (all legal decision making), primary placement (they live full time with her), and me supervised visitation twice a week.

Senator, I tell this story for a simple reason - a human and civil rights abuse of unimaginable magnitude is occurring right within our New York communities. It is endemic throughout the country and spreading beyond our borders. It needs to stop. It is unconstitutional and unlawful. Not to mention destructive to the children and families who find themselves caught in this system. One honest reaction of parents to this tragedy is to be angry, saddened, depressed that a parent can lose their children to a system that rewards acting first with false or weak allegations. We are encouraged to accept this new 'norm' as a reality in the lives of our children – put up with it or disappear as the only option. This is a ridiculous choice to any parent. And yes, it can happen to anyone- married, divorced, never married. If you have children you are potentially at peril under the current legal system.

I implore anyone going through this particular hardship to know they are not alone. I encourage victims of the Family Court to organize, to petition our legislators, to place this Fundamental Rights issue at the top of their priorities. Our children are only children for so long Senator. In an instant they grow up. Let's give them the opportunity to grow up with two loving parents, equally. That is truly in their best interest.

Please Support a Family Rights Act in Congress.

Respectfully,

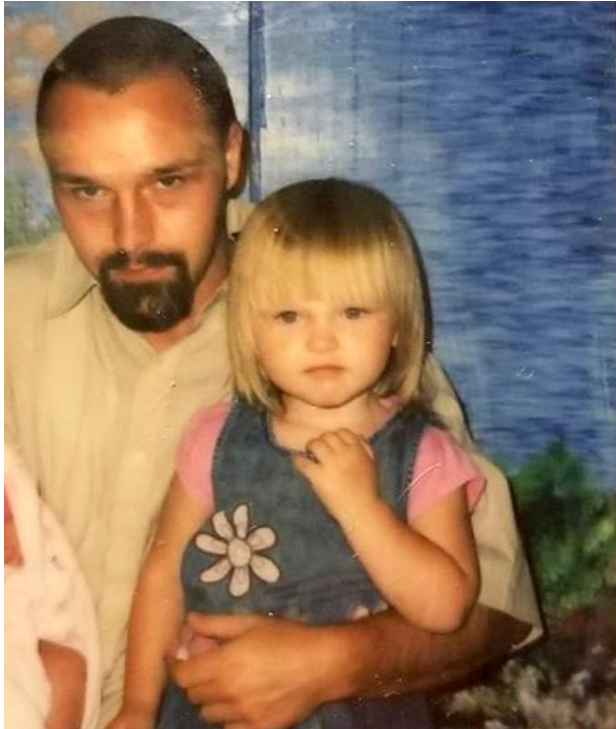
David M. Filiberto, Ph.D.,
Ithaca, New York



Dear Senator,

May 14, 2018

My husband lost his daughter and any right to see her when he went to prison and she was placed [in a second](#) foster home. The courts charged him with article 10 neglect stating he "failed to plan for his daughters future" because he didn't have anyone that could take her...except he did, but somehow DSS managed to find SOMETHING wrong with every person he brought to the court.



The judge told him if you sign over your rights you'll get one visit a year for at least 2 hours...what kind of visit is that? He refused to give up his daughter so the courts took his rights and gave him NOTHING.

He hasn't seen or spoken to his daughter since 2009 and she was 2, she will be 11 this year and was adopted out. **We now have 3 kids and we still have no legal rights to pursue visits for them.**

Liz Predmore

Dear Senator,

May 17, 2018

I am writing to add my voice and my story to a campaign for change. I'm the loving father of a daughter, Magdalena, who has just turned 16. Her mother and I separated amicably four years ago, **but a year after that our relationship deteriorated, despite my best efforts to preserve the peace.**



Neither my daughter nor her mother has at any time accused me of any physical abuse toward either of them, only a vague but forcefully conveyed feeling that my daughter “didn’t feel safe” with me or in my home. This unverifiable allegation, through a series of machinations and provocations involving the Family Court in Tompkins County, turned out to be enough to deprive me of custody and of any visitation, communication, or access to my daughter whatsoever. **Simply on the basis of a few spurious claims, I have been in essence laid off the job of parenting.** My daughter's adamant refusal was also enough to stymie ... the family therapy ordered by the judge.

The injustice I've experienced (which I believe will prove extremely harmful to my daughter in the long run) has demonstrated that parental alienation is a very real and pernicious phenomenon. However, my attorney advised me that proving alienation in a family court is very often impossible, and **even making a serious attempt would have required legal resources far in excess of my financial means.** It is apparently an enormously rare event for any judge in New York to rule in favor of a party contending that parental alienation has taken place. **The weight of institutional influence strongly favors ... lending credence to any allegation or suggestion of abuse, no matter how unsubstantiated,** especially when directed at fathers.

I understand that a campaign for “Family Rights” has been launched. I do believe children deserve, under all but the most extraordinary circumstances, to have ongoing and healthy relationships with both parents, even in situations when the two parents are bitterly estranged. I also believe that parents deserve the right not to be cut off from their children by a judge's cavalier or expedient decision. Thank you & Sincerely,

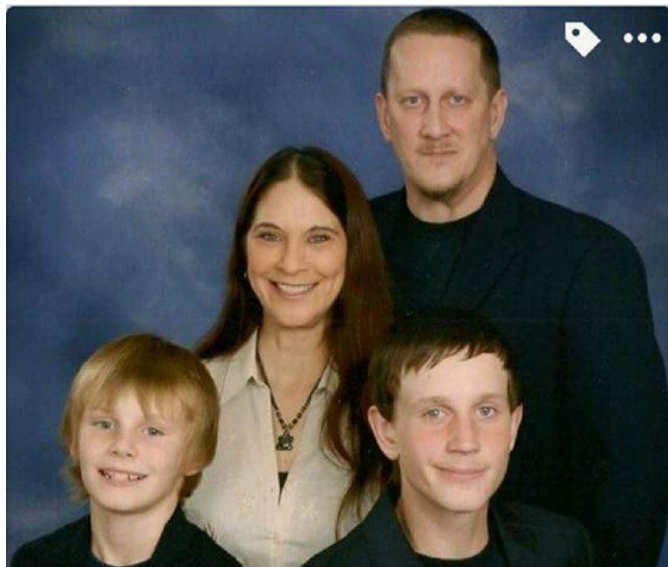
Roger K. Smith

Brooktondale, New York, rogerkimmelsmith@gmail.com

Dear Senator,

May 15, 2018

This Judge ... handed my child over to a known child abuser **who skipped out on her 4 children for over seven years. I raised all four by myself.** After the state of Texas caught up with her for owing my children \$11,000 back child support, instead of incarcerating her, they gave the children back to her and order me to pay child support today.



I am permanently disabled, I was crushed to death and brought back to life three times, arms paralyzed for three years, cant feel my right arm, I had a collapsed lung, shattered shoulder blade, broke collar bone, all ribs were broke and a skull fracture that has left me with brain seizures and I have lost my way of living supporting my children while their mother was in another state ...when she was supposed to be in Texas paying child support.

And here is the kicker...my lawyer did not tell me of a court date so the Judge gave her a paper to come get them from my home. That was 3 years ago. My lawyer within days was suspended after this for

negligence, I had used all my savings hiring him. She has been abusing them their entire life, punching them in the face, kicking them, throwing them into garage doors, etc.

I divorced her 12 years ago for abusing them. I tried representing myself because I am permanently disabled and cannot afford a lawyer, **all of my disability money goes towards rent every month, and my wife pays the utilities. I will be forced to the streets if I have to pay the \$225.00 a month I was ordered to pay today in child support.**

The Judge was prejudice and did not have all the facts. My son Samuel on the left, needs a good custody lawyer. The kid is afraid of her with good reason. This judge is destroying my child's future and childhood and happiness and no one cares. He gets one childhood and should be comfortable where he lives.

My goal is to get the best lawyer I can and start some type of process to make her start paying for her mistakes instead of getting judges to make me pay for her mistakes. This is not what I want my children to think is okay....but the family law system is teaching them such. My kids don't need to think they can get away with what they are letting her get away with... Thank you for reading this and bless you all...

Sincerely,

Keith Hankins

Declaration of Family Rights

*That when a child is born, both biological parents have a **right** to know. A child has a **right** to both parents in their lives. Fit parents decide what is in the 'best interests' of their children. Good, average, & poor parents are Fit & Equal parents.*

*That you and your spouse have a **right** to be presumed Fit & Equal parents (equal in terms of both physical and legal custody).*

If anyone (a spouse, relative, social services) wishes to challenge these rights, you have:

- 1) The right to counsel.
- 2) The right to be presumed a fit parent, innocent, and deserving of an equal relationship with your kids.
- 3) The right to protection of a criminal jury. The "state" needs to prove you were a demonstrated serious and intentional threat to your child's safety and that you acted with mal-intent towards your children.