

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parental Equality slams Child Support Agency proposals by Minister Brennan.

“The proposal to introduce the equivalent of the British style Child Support agency is the latest step in a bankrupt social policy followed by the Department of Social Community and family affairs for over twenty years” according to Liam O Gogain chairman of Parental Equality the Shared Parenting and Joint Custody Support group.

Meanwhile, fathers who try to maintain a dignified and meaningful relationship with their children are consistently discriminated against in the secret Family Law Courts. In the research report “Strengthening Families through Fathers” recently funded and launched by the same Minister Brennan there is evidence of an organizational culture within social services where fathers are treated dismissively. Successive welfare laws which classified fathers as second class parents have created and fostered a lifestyle option of lone parenthood where the state, (which is in fact the unfortunate taxpayer) now acts as the “SUBSTITUTE HUSBAND” to almost 80,000 lone mothers.

The dogs in the street know the culture where the “Lone Mother” applies for “the book”, also gets a house or rent allowance, accepts under-the-counter payments from the “Errant” father while often cohabiting with either the child’s father or her new partner. With the levels of births outside of marriage now at 35% and rising, the reality of this “Double Funding” deters many young couples, by penalizing them financially if they marry. The Department, by turning a blind eye for years to this social welfare fraud has colluded in feeding this spiraling monstrous drain on public resources to the tune of E800m. Einstein once said “You can’t solve a problem with the thinking that created it”

The same Social Welfare department that spawned this mess is now turning in desperation to the discredited draconian CSA model which is now in tatters in the UK. Having demonized and discriminated against fathers for a generation the new proposal is to criminalize them. The consequence of this blundering approach will be an inevitable increase in family tensions and an eternal war of attrition between separated parents. Fathers who are already providing for their children will be further insulted, threatened and angered by the sole focus on extracting money from them while their rights as fathers continue to be denied.

Ireland doesn't need a repeat of the failed CSA. What we need is a Shared Parenting Agency which supports and encourages both fathers and mothers to mutually and equally share the joys and burdens of rearing their own children.

The simple fact is that the waste of taxpayer's monies (in terms of welfare, legal costs, stress levels and overall health for all family members) will be reduced substantially by implementing the shared parenting models developed by ParentalEquality.ie, including the Six-Way-Win proposal over the last 12 years of working with families.

Yours Etc.
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