

03/5/2020

Opposition to SB157

Dear Chairperson Patton and Judiciary Committee :

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 157.

This law would be detrimental to our daughter and grandchildren. Equal parenting time should not be granted in all situations.

Every divorce, property settlement and especially custody of minor children should be handled on a case by case basis in the courts with a Judge. Only during those proceedings can a Judge evaluate thru observation some of the following that are critical in determining who should be the primary custodial parent : the moral character of parents , how some desperate parents tend to fabricate or outright lie to suit his/her needs or if the individual seems unstable or paranoid when being questioned on certain issues. These are all critical issues that can be assessed to protect the minor children.

How can a parent who professes that he/she does not believe in structure including bedtime, meal time or school work be looking out for the best interest of a minor child? How can a parent who intimidates the children into thinking it is their fault that they do not get to spend more time with the non-custodial parent looking out for their best interests mentally? How can a parent who questions the child's health and medicines even after being told by a specialist that there can be repercussions if their medicine is not administered as ordered be a good parent looking out for the welfare of the

minors?

How can a parent who is not willing to keep their children physically and emotionally safe be a fit parent? How can a non-custodial parent send the children home after a weekend visit and tell the children to keep a secret or Mommy will get mad? These are just a few of the issues that our daughter lives with on a daily basis though I could go on with a long list of issues that proves that her ex-husband should not have shared custody of the children. Many family members and friends of our daughter know of his paranoid behavior and question his ability to keep the children safe during their visits with him as well.

Her ex-husband is manipulative and tries to show people who do not know the situation that he is being wronged by not having shared custody of three minor children. There is also a fourth minor child (who is now of the age of majority), but our daughter was granted sole custody of her with no parenting privileges allowed with her ex-husband for a variety of reasons. His false and/or made-up accusations dragged the case thru the courts for several years. The Guardian-ad-Litem had to check all of his accusations and none were found with any merit and all were dismissed. The Judge was able to see what type of a man and so-called father he was with this behavior. He was never an involved father when the family was intact and has only grown obsessed with custody as a way to hurt his ex-wife and children and a way to not have to pay child support. Our ex son-in-law has only paid minimal child support payments since September 2016, which also shows a lack of character in a father who is not willing to provide for his children. The biggest question I have personally is why does a man record every conversation when he is with our daughter even at the children's doctor appointments? So again why should he be entitled to shared

custody?

Luckily, our daughter was given primary custody of our grandchildren because of a host of issues that the Judge and Guardian-ad-Litem uncovered. We do not want that arrangement jeopardized with a bill being passed that does not look at what is best for the children. It should never be about the parent's identity or self worth.

No one is saying both parents should not be involved in the lives of their children. But after hearing the recommendations of the Guardian-ad-Litem and their fact gathering and observations, the Judge should be able to decide who should have primary custody and what visitation the non-custodial parent should be entitled to in regards to what is best for the children. The Judge's decision(s) should not be dictated by a bill that is being heavily lobbied by special interests for a 50-50 custody arrangement. We strongly feel that shared custody should not be forced onto thousands of families. The Family Court Judge should make these decisions as they were elected by their constituents to serve and protect the children.

Protect those who cannot fight for themselves, the innocent children. Please oppose Senate Bill 157.

Sincerely,  
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