

Definition of:-

Family – Parents and their children, a persons children, a set of relatives.

Child/ren – A young human being, a son or daughter.

Father – Male parent, ancestor, a founder or originator.

Mother – A female who has given birth to offspring, to be the mother of or to.

Divorce – A legal dissolution of marriage, separation.

(Taken from the English Dictionary)

So where does it say within these definitions that one person has the right to remove a child's rights to see both parents?

I have a child and an ex just like you.

I've lived the life at the hands of an abusive ex.

I live without my child- only difference between me and most of you is I'm a mother.

I was with my ex for 12 yrs, but for 7 of those yrs I was subjected to being cheated on, lied too, abused continuously. Why stay you may ask, well it was simple. I stayed for the child we had together, I believed that no matter how I was treated, our child had the right to have a father in their life all the time. I'd spent my whole life wanting to know my own father, so there was no way I was going to put the child that I adored through them very same feelings. Finally in 2000 I finally realised that I was not living a life, and I wasn't showing our child the right way in life, so my ex had to leave, on the understanding that WHEN EVER he and our child wanted contacted they had it.

My only problem was that although our relationship as a couple was over, I was still getting as much hassle and abuse in the sense of him following me to work, making stupid phone calls day and night and when he would come to pick our child up he would still be abusive towards me by being verbal and threatening to me. THIS I HAD TO MAKE STOP.

So I went to the local court by myself to get an injunction against him ONLY to make him stay away from me NOT our child (he was a good father in the sense that he never treated her in this way)

It was one of the scariest days ever, I had to write out a statement and produce it to the judge. I will never forget how I felt – I felt sick with nerves, my legs were shaking and I was unable to get the words out, None of these feelings were because I was lying but just because this was somewhere I never thought I'd have to be.

The judge read my statement and took note of the many police reference numbers I had and without hesitation made the order, but before it was over he stated at least 6 times that he was able to stop all contact with the child,

and that the way the father was to me was not in the child's best interest to have contact, this sickened me and I just kept saying NO. So I left that day after paying £80.00, i had a piece of paper in my hand that I had to issue to the ex and have a witness with me, this was done that evening, I shook like a leaf when I gave it to him but thought it would stop him hurting me any more.

Our child was happy in the sense that the contact was there every other weekend (this he decided on, due to him wanting his own life) which I accepted but he was also able to call her on her mobile phone, so everyone seemed to be happy.

This was all to change –

In the May of 2002 our child went on holiday for a week, along with his new partner and her children. I'd asked to meet the new partner on many occasions but was always told there was no point, I can only assume that my ex was worried what we may discuss but I only wanted to see the person who had become a huge part of my child's life in a short time, I could only go by what our child would say after she'd had contact with her father. And she seemed to be happy this lady to the point that she was the only thing she would talk about (yes this did hurt, but again it was something I had to accept and I did)

So I finally saw this lady the morning they were leaving to go away, she seemed very nice and as a mother I felt she would be able to understand my concerns which I was assured she did. My child returned the following Saturday full of her holiday, except she seemed different towards me, on the Sunday night I found out why and this was where my whole life changed.

It was 7.30pm and our child said something totally out of the blue "I'm going to live with my dad; I'm going on the 12th June. Everything is sorted" These words will stay with me till the day I die.

I was in total shock and bewildered to why or where this had come from, I remember asking her what was going on and she simply said "if I live with dad and the new partner then I can have a family with a brother and sisters".

(I didn't want any more children, and due to medical reasons was advised not to even try, which was explained to our child previously)

I sent her to bed as she had school the next day, and no sooner had she gone, I burst into tears, my whole world had been turned upside down and I didn't know what to do or how to do it.

I rang my family and told them what had gone on and I was amazed at their response – they all said the same thing, she's old enough to know her own mind (11) so let her go. My heart was being ripped out of my body and it was killing me at the thought of my child going, but after many conversations with her and her father it always came back to the same thing SHE WANTED TO GO.

So on the 12th June my child left, I helped put her things into my ex's van and was told I would see her all the time, I watched her drive off, went inside the now empty flat and fell to the floor and a major part of me died that night, I cried more tears that night than I'd ever cried before.

I love my child dearly and no matter how I felt or what it did or has done to me I did what I did because no matter what I didn't own her as a person I was only there to love, protect and guide her, which I did to my very best ability.

Since our child left I've had very little contact, I've tried many times and will always continue to try to have some sort of relationship with her, but I seem to come up against many walls, but walls can be broken.

I've lost my parents through all of this, even though they were the very people who told me to let her go, they have condemned me for doing this.

I lost my friends, and had to move away from the place I'd lived all my life.

Please don't take out your pain, anger or resentment for an ex on your child/ren

Remember just as you have the right to have a happy life SO DO THEY.

What better lesson can you show your child/ren than you are a strong, good person able to put your feelings to one side for their good.

When I started writing this I thought it would be easy to do, BUT I was very wrong as it brought back all the feelings and memories that I've tried so hard to remove. But just hope that there may be parts in this that can help someone else and even make the very people who are able to change their views and laws by reading these diaries. And realising that this is not always the fault of the absent parent.

So all I ask is that no matter how hard it is for you to write your feelings down PLEASE DO IT not only for others BUT also for yourself.