

Received: from netdoor.com
by governor.state.ms.us; Wed, 08 Mar 2000 11:59:17 -0600
Received: from rakintes (port50.blx.netdoor.com [208.148.205.50])
by netdoor.com (8.9.3/8.9.3) with SMTP id MAA08438
for <governor@governor.state.ms.us>; Wed, 8 Mar 2000 12:02:55 -0600 (CST)
Message-ID: <000201bf8927\$a7e81d40\$32cd94d0@rakintes.netdoor.com>
Reply-To: "Teri Setnikar" <terizset@netdoor.com>
From: "Teri Setnikar" <terizset@netdoor.com>
To: <governor@governor.state.ms.us>
Subject: Fairness in child custody laws
Date: Wed, 8 Mar 2000 11:55:39 -0600
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="-----_NextPart_000_0006_01BF88F5.38E59BC0"
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.72.3110.1
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----_NextPart_000_0006_01BF88F5.38E59BC0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Dear Governor Musgrove:

First, let me congratulate you on becoming Mississippi's Governor for =
the beginning of the New Milleneum. I voted for you and look forward to =
following you and your administration.

Governor Musgrove, I would like to know how you feel about the role of =
fatherhood and the importance of fathers in their children's lives.

I, for one, feel that far too many fathers have been relegated to merely =
"visitors" in their children's lives in our society today, when a =
divorce occurs. Unfortunately, divorce is all too common these days, =
and many children are scarred for life because of it. I feel that we as =
a society need to re-evaluate the family/chancery laws in our country. =
No matter was anybody says, there has been a great deal of gender bias =
with respect to custody arrangements. I am not advocating taking =
children away from their mothers. I am, however, strongly advocating =
the need for immediate changes with respect to how children and fathers =
are being treated. I believe that children need BOTH PARENTS. CHILDREN =
SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FEEL THAT DADDY MUST NOT LOVE THEM, BECAUSE HE ONLY =
SEES THEM TWICE A MONTH. Sadly, in most divorce cases, the fathers are =
lucky if they get 2 weekends a month with their children. Fathers are =
second class citizens, and are turned into merely "visitors", rather =
than parents.

Yes, there are some deadbeat parents (I detest the term Deadbeat Dads) =
It is used too loosely and inaccurately, by an uninformed general =
public. The sad thing is, our court system helps to perpetuate the myth =
of Deadbeat Dads. Many fathers start out paying child support =
faithfully, only to be denied access to their child(ren) by a vindictive =
ex-spouse time and time again. The custodial parent can keep children =
away from the other parent and in most cases, gets away with it, and =
might get a little warning not to do it again, after the non-custodial =
parent has to spend more money to go back to court and ask for his =
rightful "visitation", as already outlined in his divorce decree.

There needs to be a department set aside to give free advice and legal =
assistance to these non-custodial parents, just like there is currently =
with respect to child support enforcement. In fact, the laws concerning =
divorce should be amended to include certain changes. For example, many =

people believe there should be mandatory mediation, mandatory parenting =
classes, and stipulations in each and every divorce decree protecting =
the parent/child relationship for both parents, not just the mother. =
There should be a paragraph in each divorce decree stating that if =
either parent is in contempt (not paying child support, not allowing the =
other parent their rightful custody, etc.) that the party that is in =
contempt, will be responsible for any and all legal expenses incurred by =
the other party by having to hire an attorney and go back to court, =
etc., to receive what they should already be getting - the support =
payment, or the custody/visitation times, etc. If some of the custodial =
parents knew they would have to pay back the non-custodial parents' =
legal fees, I truly believe alot of these problems would stop. Right =
now though, not many of the custodial parents are concerned if they =
should decide on their own that the non-custodial parent just doesn't =
need to see their child, for whatever reason. Why should they be =
concerned, when all they will most likely receive is a little slap on =
the wrist and a warning not to do it again. Also, I feel that it should =
automatically be in each and every divorce decree where minor children =
are involved - that the parents can obtain assistance from the local =
law enforcements agencies, if they go to exercise their legal =
custody/visitation and they are denied by the other parent. Children =
and parents should not have to be kept from each other for months, until =
the parent being denied custody/visitation, can get on a court docket.

Please keep in mind, that I am referring to the majority of cases =
involving minor children of divorce, when 2 equally capable, loving and =
decent parents are concerned. I am not saying give equal custody to the =
neighborhood "hardened criminal". =20

I hope that all the citizens of the State of Mississippi can count on =
you, Governor Musgrove, to assist in bringing much needed changes in the =
custody laws and the enforcement of the current orders already in place. =
I agree with you, in that it is time Mississippi moves out of 50th. =
place, and I can't think of a more important issue than the future of =
our children. DIVORCE HURTS, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO HURT QUITE AS MANY =
CHILDREN - WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Good Luck in your administration, I know you will face many challenges. =
I look forward to speaking to you over the telephone soon or perhaps in =
person 1 day.

Sincerely,

Teri Setnikar
Concerned Citizen, Mother and Grandmother in Long Beach, MS

-----_NextPart_000_0006_01BF88F5.38E59BC0
Content-Type: text/html;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD W3 HTML//EN">
<HTML>
<HEAD>

<META content=3Dtext/html;charset=3Diso-8859-1 =
http-equiv=3DContent-Type>
<META content=3D'"MSHTML 4.72.3110.7"' name=3DGENERATOR>
</HEAD>

<BODY bgColor=3D#ffffff>
<DIV>Dear Governor Musgrove:</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>First, let me congratulate you on =
becoming=20
Mississippi's Governor for the beginning of the New Milleneum. I =
voted for=20

you and look forward to following you and your =
administration.</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>Governor Musgrove, I would like to =
know how you=20
feel about the role of fatherhood and the importance of fathers in their =
children's lives.</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>I, for one, feel that far too many =
fathers have=20
been relegated to merely "visitors"; in their children's lives =
in our=20
society today, when a divorce occurs. ; Unfortunately, divorce is =
all too=20
common these days, and many children are scarred for life because of =
it. ; I=20
feel that we as a society need to re-evaluate the family/chancery laws =
in our=20
country. ; No matter what anybody says, there has been a great deal =
of gender=20
bias with respect to custody arrangements. ; I am not advocating =
taking=20
children away from their mothers. ; I am, however, strongly =
advocating the=20
need for immediate changes with respect to how children and fathers are =
being=20
treated. ; I believe that children need BOTH PARENTS. ; CHILDREN =
SHOULD=20
NOT HAVE TO FEEL THAT DADDY MUST NOT LOVE THEM, BECAUSE HE ONLY SEES =
THEM TWICE=20
A MONTH. ; Sadly, in most divorce cases, the fathers are lucky if =
they get 2=20
weekends a month with their children. ; Fathers are second class =
citizens,=20
and are turned into merely "visitors";, rather than=20
parents.</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>Yes, there are some deadbeat parents (I detest the =
term=20
Deadbeat Dads) ; It is used too loosely and inaccurately, by an =
uninformed=20
general public. ; The sad thing is, our court system helps to =
perpetuate the=20
myth of Deadbeat Dads. ; Many fathers start out paying child support =
faithfully, only to be denied access to their child(ren) by a vindictive =
ex-spouse time and time again. ; The custodial parent can keep =
children away=20
from the other parent and in most cases, gets away with it, and might =
get a=20
little warning not to do it again, after the non-custodial parent has to =
spend=20
more money to go back to court and ask for his rightful =
"visitation";,=20
as already outlined in his divorce decree.</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>There needs to be a department set aside to give =
free advice=20
and legal assistance to these non-custodial parents, just like there is=20
currently with respect to child support enforcement. ; In fact, the =
laws=20
concerning divorce should be amended to include certain changes. ; =
For=20
example, many people believe there should be mandatory mediation, =

mandatory=20
parenting classes, and stipulations in each and every divorce decree =
protecting=20
the parent/child relationship for both parents, not just the =
mother. There=20
should be a paragraph in each divorce decree stating that if either =
parent is in=20
contempt (not paying child support, not allowing the other parent their =
rightful=20
custody, etc.) that the party that is in contempt, will be responsible =
for any=20
and all legal expenses incurred by the other party by having to hire an =
attorney=20
and go back to court, etc., to receive what they should already be =
getting - the=20
support payment, or the custody/visitation times, etc. If some of =
the=20
custodial parents knew they would have to pay back the non-custodial =
parents'=20
legal fees, I truly believe alot of these problems would stop. =
Right now=20
though, not many of the custodial parents are concerned if they should =
decide on=20
their own that the non-custodial parent just doesn't need to see their =
child,=20
for whatever reason. Why should they be concerned, when all they =
will most=20
likely receive is a little slap on the wrist and a warning not to do it=20
again. Also, I feel that it should automatically be in each and =
every=20
divorce decree where minor children are involved - that the =
parents can=20
obtain assistance from the local law enforcements agencies, if they go =
to=20
exercise their legal custody/visitation and they are denied by the other =
parent. Children and parents should not have to be kept from each =
other=20
for months, until the parent being denied custody/visitation, can get on =
a court=20
docket.</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>Please keep in mind, that I am referring to the =
majority of=20
cases involving minor children of divorce, when 2 equally capable, =
loving and=20
decent parents are concerned. I am not saying give equal custody =
to the=20
neighborhood "hardened =
criminal". </DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>I hope that all the citizens of the State of =
Mississippi can=20
count on you, Governor Musgrove, to assist in bringing much needed =
changes in=20
the custody laws and the enforcement of the current orders already in=20
place. I agree with you, in that it is time Mississippi moves out =
of 50th.=20
place, and I can't think of a more important issue than the future of =
our=20
children. DIVORCE HURTS, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO HURT QUITE AS MANY =
CHILDREN - WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>Good Luck in your administration, I know you will =
face many=20

challenges. I look forward to speaking to you over the telephone =
soon or=20
perhaps in person 1 day.</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>Sincerely,</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>Teri Setnikar</DIV>
<DIV>Concerned Citizen, Mother and Grandmother in Long =
Beach,=20
MS</DIV></BODY></HTML>

-----=_NextPart_000_0006_01BF88F5.38E59BC0--