

Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR

Re: SB 318
Subject: Father's Rights

March 6, 2019

On May 31, 2014, my granddaughter, was born in Hermiston, Oregon. My son and his girlfriend at the time, are the parents of this beautiful child. The child's mother has 4 children from a previous marriage. The ex husband is in the military and he is fighting in the courts with the mom for his rights with his children. I witnessed the mother telling her four older children their dad had a new life and did not want to see his children. She did these tactics listed below to her ex husband as well as my son and is now doing the same thing to her new husband.

March of 2015, My son filed taxes and claimed their child. The mother had promised to give him the money but when he got in the vehicle for her to take him to the bank, she refused and threatened to call the police. She dangled the phone in front of him and asked if he was going to take it away from her. So he reached up and pulled it out of her hand. She pulled a second phone out of her pocket and promptly called the police. She needed him to take the phone so she could get a restraining order on him. My son had a restraining order against him for taking a phone away from the mother. It did not matter that she had two phones and she baited him with one. She intended to marry her new boyfriend, which she did in the fall of 2015 and promptly changed the baby's last name without notifying my son. She used this restraining order to keep him away from the child for two (2) years. She weaponized the restraining order, while he was at work would call the police and say he was in front of her house, he wasn't, he was at work or asleep because of his rotating shift at work it did not matter, he was arrested anyway. Accusations like this went on for the entire 2 years. The parents of the child were going back and forth for him to see their child, the mother refused.

When they finally got to court, the judge wanted them to put the past behind them, to move forward and laid out a schedule for the father, my son, to get reacquainted with their daughter. The mother did not respond to that, said she did not have to obey the judge. The mother tells the child her daddy is the big bad wolf, he is mean and will hurt her. She has called Child Protective Services on him several times. We spoke with the attorney as the judge said he wanted to know right away if anyone violated his orders. At the get acquainted visitation, the mother would create games to have the child run away from her dad, we quickly said that wasn't a good game to play. He was verbally attacked during these visitations by her and her family. The attorney kept telling us to write things down there wasn't enough documentation yet to take it back to court. Basically, we didn't have enough money to take it back to court. It's all about the money and not about getting children together with their real dad.

When it finally did get back to court, after I paid the attorney \$2,500 dollars (we are not wealthy people, we work for a living). The judge was angry that he was not notified that the mother was disregarding the visitation schedule he set up and then he set up the parenting plan. Which she violates as well.

The mother of my granddaughter, her attorney was free and a friend of the family, until she died. Then she had to get an attorney.

The judge wanted only the people involved in the re-acquaintance process, people who were promoting the relationship forward with the father and the child. The mother was not having any of it.

After having several visits from the Child Protective Service or Children's Services Division, the child said that mommy lied, daddy is not mean, he is really nice. She gets pumped for questions when she gets home, she is in big trouble at home if she has fun with her dad. When her mom calls to talk with her during the three days my son has visitation, the child refuses to talk with her mom. She will turn away and walk out of the room. When asked why she won't talk to her mommy, she said she gets in trouble if she is having fun.

When my ex husband and I divorced, I knew it was important and vital that my children maintain a health relationship with their father. And I encouraged them to take the time to spend with him.

It is vital that Father's Rights are included in the law. Father's have a unique bond with their children and the children need to know their real daddy. They need to know they are loved by him, their wellbeing is important to him. Father's have a role to play in the upbringing of their children. As for myself we too were alienated from the affection and time with our grandchild. After having to stay on the sideline and watch what was happening, it is shame that women are allowed to weaponized restraining orders, parenting plans and out and out REFUSE to comply with the parenting plan the judge made and father's have no recourse except to spend thousands of dollars to fight in the courts to get the rights to see their children. So far in our situation, \$30,000 dollars has been spent for my son to see his daughter and they are headed back to court again. This is a vicious circle and I can see why some father's will just walk away. They don't have the money. This is a terrible atrocity played out on children and their fathers. IT is vital that father's get 50/50 time with their children and it is in the best interest of the child to be able to spend equal time with both of their parents.

This is my testimony,
Barbara Long Thompson.
Paternal Grandmother