

Vote Ó Gógáin No.1 for EU EAST Constituency (Ireland)
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Dear Liam:

Thank you for the informative website. Having taken on the responsibility of looking after my three and four year old children at Christmas after my partner moved out, your flyer prompted me to read your web site.

It is extremely un-nerving to find out that as an unmarried father I probably wouldn't obtain custody of my children in the law courts, even joint custody. Fortunately at the moment I haven't felt the need to seek legal advice, let alone go to the courts and I don't believe that my partner has either. Since I have the time and the resources to look after the children at my home, that is my wish and the current arrangement. Their mother has them weekday afternoons in her corner shop and for a week or so during the holidays. Not ideal but we're all working so needs must!

It would appear to me that money is often the driving force that leads to the courts. Withdrawal of custody is used as an effective threat. However, whilst the children's financial support is extremely important, the driving criteria behind custody should be joint parental care. The emotional effects go both ways and I believe that a parent's deprivation of their child's company and love can exacerbate or possibly bring on socially unacceptable behaviour which in turn could be interpreted as dysfunctionality.

I support your campaign although I am fully aware that, if successful, you will be burdened with many other tasks and issues. However I believe that the ability to prioritise and the battle-hardened determination that you will have developed as a sole-custody parent will equip you well for the job.

Have you any thoughts on whether or not I should collect child allowance? My former partner believes that in allocating this responsibility to me she would be giving up a right.

Best wishes and good luck in the elections.

Sincerely,

Jim
Meath