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Dear Sir / Madam

I had high hopes on hearing that the Domestic Abuse Bill was being brought forward to the Assembly. I am a father who has [REDACTED] children who are being kept from me by the coercive control of the mother. The Justice Minister has stated that Parental Alienation is recognised under the coercive control element of the Bill. The question is if I go into court - having done so already - would I get a different result there than what has occurred so far because of the existence of this Bill? To be honest I have no confidence that I would.

There is little or no chance of a parent getting help from the judiciary where contact is being denied and this bill will not change this situation. This bill was an opportunity to give hope to parents in the same situation as myself and it looks to be an opportunity missed.

Furthermore I am concerned that in the rush to get this bill in place one of the primary difficulties of the bill has been overlooked. Indeed this was broached by Paula Bradshaw today regarding where false allegations can be made and have been made. Non-molestation orders seem to be handed out like confetti. A representative from Women's Aid said that, "of course, there will be false allegations" however that "the women her organisation meets with "they want contact to happen, but they want safe contact to happen"." The representative is displaying a naivety that belies belief if she actually thinks that this is the case.

The Bill is an opportunity missed frankly.

Regards

[REDACTED]