

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Comment Regarding GR 40
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 9:18:48 AM

From: Charles Jensen [mailto:CharlesJensen@live.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 6:46 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment Regarding GR 40

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of five generations that family law has failed. These failures all have the same patterns in common; the failure to adhere to an international standard that the rest of the world has ratified. I learned about The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child when researching the origin of "a child's best interests". Our country has 50 different interpretations of this premise and none of them provide an equality of outcome for innocent children. GR 40 seems like a step in the right direction, but there are far too many children who will fall through the cracks of this legislation and someone needs to stand up for them.

When doing my research, I found that the only irrefutable definition of a "child's best interest" is that every child deserves to spend as much time as possible with the best versions of both parents. It is a commonly recited phrase that "Judges see criminals at their best and parents at their worst", or something to that effect. The existence of a child custody case is indication of an inability for at least one individual to put their child's needs above their own. This might manifest as an unwillingness or inability to communicate, but it also might be due to previous instances in which trauma occurred within the family's relationship. Nevertheless, the existence of a child custody case substantiates the need for at least two of three (or more, depending on number of children) to be given mental health therapy/treatment that medical insurance largely does not cover.

These legal battles often cause parents to work longer hours while they battle for an intangible concept instead of finding areas where parents can see eye to eye. In that time, a child experiences legitimate trauma that gets disregarded or rationalized as necessity instead of looking at the abundance of resources that are readily available for those who need them most. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said many profound things, which include two that always

resonated with me. These quotes feel especially significant when discussing these children who fall through the cracks: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

The things these children endure cause them to become the very type of individuals whom these systems are purportedly created to prevent and/or protect. Divorce statistics, the burgeoning mental health crisis in our country and the patterns in every individual's past who have played a part in a horrendous injustice all illustrate the need to find an alternative to family law. There are more excuses created than there is collaboration, and the voices of these children are never given the appropriate attention even when they become fully grown adults. This leads me to the next quote that relates to this topic: "In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Family law is the epitome of tribalism and it has very little to do with a child's best interests. I could sit here and explain exactly how we came to this point, where the money could be reappropriated and what exactly is going right for the children who are simply lucky statistics. However, I have no reason to believe that my insight will be given any credibility and I wholeheartedly believe that I can one day advocate for these children without help from those who are in a position of power. The injustice that I experienced as a child might have adversely affected my personal life, but I have 11 years left to make sure that something better comes of this system for the sake of my child as well as those he will gravitate towards.

I don't have a degree, an impressive collection of wealth or any accolades aside from reading for more hours than I have slept. What I do have is an unteachable aptitude, generations worth of insight, thousands of interpersonal relationships and the patience to see a better world created for my son. GR 40 might be a step in the right direction regarding divorce, but how many more children will have to suffer before someone takes the position of crafting a rule that actually provides the same equality of outcome as the Convention on the Rights of the Child? I understand that the people reading this are important, but I implore you to understand that we are all equals with the same obligation to create a better world for our children.

In 11 years, I will present the documentary that illustrates these five generations to my son. When this time comes, I sincerely hope that I may consider those who read this email as my friends and that a documentary might have a section where someone chose not to remain silent. If you are interested in hearing the solution, reviewing the numbers associated with implementing adequate change, analyzing the cracks which allow for an unacceptable failure rate (anything less than 0% is unacceptable) and collaboratively discussing how we might expedite the journey towards this destination then please feel free to respond to this email.

Warm regards,
Charles Jensen

"Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your
dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday."

-Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)