



One fundamental of good parenting is supporting the role of the other parent.

Children need two parents, and they especially need two parents that work together. They need a consistent view of the world and their place in it to feel secure and confident.

It's as simple as mum not telling John he can play outside – straight after dad's told him he can't – even if she thinks it's OK herself.

Or it's as complex as dad telling him that mummy's just out late and will be back soon – even if he really thinks she's having an affair with his best friend.

Clearly we must be realistic, people are always going to argue or briefly undermine the other parent – we're only human. All the same, for good parents this is the exception about which they feel guilty, rather than the rule.

It's a simple matter of putting the welfare of the child before your own feelings. Even when it's easier to just blame the other parent, normal parents don't.

Indeed, parents the world over support each other naturally, they understand it helps their children to

feel loved and valued equally by them both.

Unfortunately, relationships break down, and when this involves children it can be especially difficult.

Of course, in most cases, parents recognise their children shouldn't have to suffer just because they can't get on. They make sensible arrangements to ensure their children as possible.

Even living apart, decent parents still support each other *as parents*, though they may hate each other as people.

In a minority of cases one or both of the parents can't or won't agree how parenting of the children is to be arranged. These are the cases that end up in the courts.

If one parent is determined enough, they can keep the children all for themselves. It's sad, but the system will accept and help a mother to remove a child's father if she chooses – she can easily stop the children seeing him. Much less commonly, a father will be able to eliminate a child's mother.

We believe that removing either parent from a child's life, without very good reason, is the ultimate in

selfishness and bad parenting. These children are damaged for life, completely unnecessarily.

Of course, very rarely, there *are* good reasons for excluding one parent. However, family courts don't look for *good* reasons, they are happy with *any* reason, either true or fabricated and – amazingly enough – they don't much care which!

Normal people naturally expect courts in this country to be places where truth and justice can be seen to work. Nothing could be further from the truth.

You'd expect the courts to try and help children keep both of their parents. But instead, they take the easy way out, shrug their shoulders, and say "What can we do?"

No-one is pretending that these situations are easy, of course, but by standing back and rubber-stamping the elimination of a parent, the family courts are totally failing children. They do little more than help bad parents ruin their children's lives.

So, what sort of parent destroys the relationship of a child with their other parent, without very good reason? A bad parent.

"Instead of challenging these bad parents, the family courts protect and indulge them – but this just rewards them for treating their children this way. The courts don't even recognise that what these parents do is bad for the children!"

"That's basically why I despise the so-called family courts – they're so damn stupid".

"Thousands of children have an unnecessary 'dadectomy' every year in Britain."

"The law should protect these children, but doesn't."

"I used to wonder why these dads were so angry and assumed they must have done something wrong."

"Now I see them as just ordinary dads let down by the family courts and fighting for their children's right to even have a dad at all."

"Ultimately, the British family courts simply have no respect at all for children"

"When I first went to the family court I trusted them to look at the facts and make a decision based upon the best interests of my daughter."

"I was truly shocked when I saw how biased they were, and how little the welfare of the child even entered their minds."

"Of course, it's true there's not much written in the law that's biased against fathers."

"Unfortunately, that doesn't matter much, because Judges can (and do) implement the law in any way they see fit. With the acquiescence of CAFCASS Court Welfare Officers, they just pretend not to know what's going on and so allow this disaster to continue."

"It's easiest that way for them."

"One parent should not be able to eliminate the other out of choice."

"As far as I'm concerned, denying a child their relationship with a parent, for no good reason, is emotional abuse of the child."

(quotes from parents within the system)