

FOR

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really is the deadbeat?

In our experiences with Blair County Domestic Relations, we have to wonder about equal rights for men and women, as seen through the eyes of the hearing officers.

With the swipe of a pen, they have the ability to cause great financial difficulties and apparently have no feeling for the person they could destroy. They are only out to get money, according to the hearing officer we had.

They rarely have concern for the parent from whom the children were abruptly taken.

They claim they are doing the right thing for the children, but how is financially ruining and possibly sending a parent (mainly the father) to prison the right thing for the children?

The expenses are not even considered, and the amount is awarded according to the gross income, not net. And, as in our situation, we have a court order that we have visitation and custody of the children two weeks of their summer vacations months, but we still have to pay the full months of support.

How fair is that? Now, think about this, we were soaked for \$750 in child care even when the opposing attorney admitted he had no receipts.

On the wall at the receptionist desk at the Domestic Relations office, there is a sign that says, "Men — be glad you are supporting your children." There is no mention of women in this sign at all.

If our concerns also concern you, please contact us because we are in the process of contacting our state legislator to change these laws to help the children and parents in the right way. Call us for information at 695-9297.

**Michael and Lisa
Duncansville**

Fairness needed in child support

The 1996 World Almanac says, "With more children living with only one parent, child support awards are more commonplace.

"In 1992, approximately 5.5 million women and 648,000 men had been awarded child support. Of the 4.9 million women actually due payments in 1991, 76 percent received at least a portion of the amount they were owed. The corresponding rate for the 443,000 men owed payments was 63 percent. Women who received child support in 1991 were paid an average of \$3,011 that year, one-third more than their male counterparts (\$2,292)."

According to these statistics, who