

Robert G. Kearns, Jr.
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Dear Governor Ridge:

Dear Governor, as you are aware the Family Court laws of Pennsylvania have been the topic of discussion for many years. Furthermore, you have been pushing for change in these laws for just about as long. Yet our state remains bogged in an emotionally destructive and abusive family court system. Our courts and our present family law has ravaged more innocent children's lives than Hitler's world war two Holocaust.

My name is Robert G. Kearns, Jr., I am 51 years old and I reside in Blair County, Pennsylvania. I am writing to you because my daughter and I have been savagely victimized by our family court system. One reason could be that Pennsylvania's archaic family law has not provided a means to dispense fairness and justice in the court processes. Another reason is the Blair County court is rife with judiciary corruption.

I have attached to this letter a detailed January 3, 2001, private criminal complaint I filed with the Blair County District Attorney's Office. I accused a Blair County judge, Hiram Carpenter of committing various misdemeanors and felonies. For example, tampering with public records and tampering with and fabricating physical evidence. I filed the same complaint with the State Attorney General's Office. To cover all the bases I also filed the complaint with the United States Attorney's Office in Pittsburgh, Pa. In each instance I have been given the brush off and run around by these law enforcement agencies as follows: The District Attorney dismissed the complaint with a huge lie citing my motives were suspect and the judge and his court reporters enjoy judicial immunity. The Attorney General dismissed my complaint citing he had no jurisdiction to prosecute my claim, but the District attorney could, if he so decided. The U.S. Attorney dismissed my complaint citing he had no investigators in his office, but the Pennsylvania Attorney General does and he has the jurisdiction to prosecute.

To help save an innocent child from further and possible permanent destruction I am asking you to read my letter and complaint carefully. All my daughter asked of our family court system was to allow her to return home to live with me and the paternal family she was raised with. Instead, she was forced onto mind altering drugs and at least two stays in mental institutions. Once you read the letter ask yourself if you could have emotionally tolerated four years of the systematic abuse this helpless young girl suffered. Just put yourselves in my shoes (her father) as the family court legally bound my hands and forced me to watch the inch by inch destruction of my own child.

We need immediate change in Pennsylvania family law and the ways our courts do business. Our children cannot and should not have to endure anymore years of the abuses like those that were inflicted on my daughter and countless children like her. I am willing to stand before the state judiciary committee to testify about my situation and why the laws need changed "now."

I would expect to see (1) video cameras in court rooms for any criminal, civil, and custody cases. (2) That all litigants be provided audio tapes at the closing of any hearings. (3) Term limits for judges set at a maximum 5 years with the option of retention. (4) Accountability for judges, with limited judicial immunity. (5) Accountability for Children and Youth Services caseworkers. (6) All CYS interviews with children be videotaped. (7) Contentious custody cases be decided by jury trial. (8) Joint physical and legal custody legislation and (9) Harsh criminal penalties for false accusations of child abuse.

And finally, I am asking you to highly recommend that a **state or federal investigation** be opened into the corrupt practices of the Blair County court system. I did send the same to all the state legislators via e-mail.

With sincerest regards,
Robert G. Kearns, Jr.