

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

News Release

For immediate Release

Christine campaigns for CSA change.

Christine Dugdale, of Caversham Heights Methodist Church, has called on the Government to change errors in the child support maintenance calculation. "This is a very significant and ongoing problem which will only get worse if the regulations are not changed," said Christine. She added, "I could not have hoped for anything better."

After campaigning for 2 years, she has successfully had a memorial passed by the national Methodist Conference in London on 11th July. A letter will be sent by the President of Conference on behalf of all Methodists calling for the government to rectify these errors. Enormous financial stress comes to separated parents with low paid jobs. Most will have few if any qualifications.

Responding to article about a suicide inquest 29 April 2013 in the Daily Mail, a separated parent wrote:

"I'm in a similar situation, and while my ex takes both of our kids on numerous holidays every year and to every theme park in the country, when it is my turn to have the kids I barely have enough money to buy them an ice cream. I feel alienated to the point that I think my kids think I don't care enough for them, which tears me up inside."

Back in October 2008 the BBC1 programme "The One Show" produced this response from another separated parent:

"I am left with £5 a week to live on....It's actually getting to the point where I can't see my boys. I can't feed myself let alone them. So I lose out on seeing them and they lose out on seeing their dad."

Currently non-resident parents have to pay the full CSA assessment if they earn more than £200 a week net of tax. This figure was set in 1998 and not indexed with inflation. The Memorial calls for this to be changed. Allowing for inflation, it should now be £298=28. The basic living wage for a single person is currently £273=86. (Centre for Research in Social Policy.)

In March 2012 there were 1,210,500 parents with CSA arrears and as of December 2012 there were 141,940 active Deduction from Earnings Orders.

The comments are still available from:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theoneshow/consumer/2008/10/22/did_the_csa_need_to_change.html

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