12/27/2024

I am an 88-year-old great-grandmother to three precious little boys, ages 6, 4, and 2. I have been an active part of their lives, caring for them every Tuesday afternoon, preparing meals for the family, and creating cherished memories. Whether it was going for walks, baking cookies, playing music together, or making Valentine's Day cards and May Baskets, these moments were full of love and joy. I am proud to be their GiGi.

However, in September 2023, everything changed when my grandson's wife took the boys without warning for eight days. Later, I was served with a "No Trespass" order, falsely accusing me of threatening and harassing her. Then, in December 2023, she took the children again, moving 150 miles away to Montana. Despite the clear violation of court orders, the judge did nothing to address this contempt, and it took 48 days before we saw the boys again.

The pain of being kept from my grandchildren is overwhelming. Their mother has deliberately cut them off from our extended family, and it feels as though something has overtaken her heart. I fear for their emotional well-being and future. My grandson, who is trying his best to be a loving father, faces unnecessary barriers and manipulation. She uses their sons as pawns to sever their bond with him and with us.

The boys now see their father only two weekends a month. This limited visitation is not enough to maintain the close, supportive family connections they need. It breaks my heart to know that the packages of love and care I send are never given to them. Every night, I lie awake, praying for their safety and well-being, and hoping that one day they will be reunited with their extended family, where they can feel the love and stability they deserve.

I strongly support the Rebuttable Shared Parenting Bill, the Time Taken, Time Back Bill, and the Three Strikes Bill. These bills are essential to ensure children are not used as pawns in a custody dispute and that both parents and extended families have equal rights to maintain meaningful relationships with their children. The emotional well-being of children should always be the priority, and these bills are necessary to protect that.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

alyss maline

Arlyss Moline