

2016 was by far the worst year in my life. My brother just about died from a kidney infection, and tumor and my dad has dipped into the drug pool and started heavily using marijuana, and a no contact was slapped on me and my family—all in the name of ORS 107.137

Shortly after my brother had gotten out of the hospital with a pick line, my mom and dad had finally gotten the divorce after 3 hard years of separation, each worse than the last.

That was the domino that started the chain leading me to four hour visits a week with my dad supervised for a year. My dad really was abusive. He also was untreated for mental illness. After assaulting my mom and sister, suffering substance abuse and the works, he was given a choice, straighten up or lose your kids. After being raped and abused by my dad, my mom fought for him to have more time. Why? Because my sisters and brothers demanded it. We wanted time. Why? We love our dad—even with all of his flaws. He still makes mistakes, but he and my mom arrange time with my grandpa and his girlfriend to make sure we get to stay summers, weekends. My mom drives over 6 hours in a day to pick up and drop off. She takes time off of her work. She cleans my dad's house when he's had a break down and the only way for a visit is to clean up. Why? Therapists say she's an enabler. I say she does it for me, and especially one of my sisters—the one who says dad is her “hero, and sometimes he Disappoints me.”

My mom had started dating a computer whiz who had separated from his wife and the divorce was almost over. His wife said because my mom had been abused and wouldn't cut my dad out of the Kids's lives, she wanted a no contact on mom and us kids.

The next time my mom's now husband came over, we found out his son was taken and hidden by his wife.

The next domino fell—the start of a long court battle that would pit ex against my mom to decide custody. My mom didn't even enter the courtroom the first hearing...but Because of an emotional affair, the entirety of my family had no contacts from this time in 2016 all the way into 2018. Until as of recent, my co-dad was not allowed to have his son overnight, and we weren't allowed to see him at all. Since being allowed to see the 4 year old boy; I have learned he is a drummer, so as a guitarist we have jam sessions.

My little brother isn't a stepchild. He's my little brother, and when he comes over; we play super heroes/Grinch/other. it all could have been sooner if a set amount of time was given for each parent to have their child.

we earned supervised visits in April of 2018. On February 7, 2019 we received 20% visitation from the court.

My Dad, after the divorce had lived in a one room studio, and gotten a girlfriend, and got the help he needed. He has chosen to only have us once a week and split summers and holidays. My Mom has given time to him, and unfortunately, he doesn't want it. He's one of those guys the court wouldn't find favorable to have 50/50 time. He's gotta work on himself to be able to determine what's best for us. I get that. But I also get my mom is unique. She tells me to walk two miles in someone else's moccasins before I judge them. Even though he had abused her, she still pushes for the relationships with my dad and his girlfriend.

Then there are the parents who did nothing and are still treated like shit, the ones that aren't allowed to see their kids, my cousin has a dad in that situation. My co-dad does, too. He went through the court battle and was told he did 50 percent parenting, but he chose to leave his wife for my mom. Who the hell cares? That's between him and his wife and has nothing to do with the child, but the judge thought otherwise.

Kids need something that protects us from getting stolen by the court or our angrier parent. That is why I support 50/50 parenting time.

Garrett Dunne

15 years old child living this life you all claim to have researched