

I have had about 4.5 years experience with Hillsborough County Superior Court (01-M-874). I have completely lost faith in our system to the point that it is really hard to write this as I have to drudge up so much. Expenses are a huge concern, having to pay for a GAL every time there is a disagreement between my ex and I as well as the visitation center costs approx. \$60.00 an hour plus an initial fee for the first meeting with the facility. The mere fact that the court would appoint me a lawyer if I went out and committed a crime, but I cannot get a lawyer to help me preserve my relationship with my daughter is very disturbing. The fact that the courts do not care nor do they uphold my parental rights is appalling. There is not a worse feeling than knowing that your parental rights as well as your constitutional rights are being disregarded to such an extent and knowing that there is absolutely nothing you can do. **Accusations being made by one party that have no factual proof seems to be ok to our judges, but for a party to bring in factual proof seems to have no barring in a custody hearing seems unconceivable.** My ex has 4 DUI convictions along with many others (i.e. possession of a controlled substance, disobeying an officer, fleeing from the scene, ect) has been in jail, while I have never been in trouble with the law. Yet, that is continuously disregarded. My ex makes wild accusations and I end up with supervised visits with my daughter for 1 hour every 2 weeks. I have to go to this visitation facility 15 minutes before my daughter gets there, I am wanded down like I am a felon, then I have to have my 1 hour visit with my daughter while being watched by some woman that is in the room taking notes. I have joint legal custody of my daughter, yet I do not know who her doctor's are nor am I kept in the loop of her medical needs and medication she is taking. I have been screwed by the system so bad that it will take quite some time to repair our relationship that has been corrupted by the family courts. **The most negative thing that I have heard about the courts would be that this happens to just about everybody.** **There are good parents' lives that are being ruined.** I am a good parent, but it doesn't matter what I bring in for proof nor does it matter who I bring in to court to help show the judge that people that know me will testify to this. It doesn't matter because they have already reserved their judgment and some are bias. **The judges and marital masters have too much power of opinion,** if you are not to their liking then you don't stand a chance. That is sad! **The worst part is the catch 22, once you realize that you are a victim of the courts, you have the right to ask the judge to reque him/herself, but that motion is approved or denied by the very judge that you have been fallen victim of.** If you take the chance to go this route, you don't stand a chance once this motion is denied as you have thoroughly disrespected that judge. How far do you think you will get then? I pray that you look into and change the way things are in our courtrooms as family's are being destroyed before our very eyes...

*Sabrina Farrens*