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Please Don't Let Me Go Papa ! Riccardo Di Done. Montreal : Theo Done & Associates, Ltd., 2001. ISBN 2-923161-00-9, softcover.

Please Don't Let Me Go Papa ! is a compelling story of a child whose fate was caught within the labyrinth of a custody and access dispute of 16 years. Told from the perspective of the biological father, the book chronicles what happened to Riccardo Branden Di Done Jr. When his parents were neither able to negotiate the problems in their relationship nor employ the legal system of the day to ensure that the best interest of their child, in terms of custody and access, would be achieved.

Di Done relates in a detailed and impassioned manner the nightmare that began when his common-law wife left their conjugal relationship in 1980 with their two-year-old son. When the mother married another man, efforts to define and establish access between child and father were further thwarted by legal jurisdictions across Canada that did not communicate, cooperate, nor recognize the importance of contact with both parents.

Despite time, money, and human appeal, not until the age of 18 was his son able to have the adoption by his mother's husband overturned and his biological name, as well as his biological father, restored. Appalled at the waste of time and the psychological impact of the ordeal on the child and family, Di Done Sr. tells of the challenge he faced as he fought for the right to have access to his son, to have a lifelong relationship, and to be a full contributor to the shaping of his character.

Reviewed and applauded by other social workers, police officers, and lawyers, **Please Don't Let Me Go Papa !** is also the story of how persistence brought about change to the legal system. The author relates how, while struggling to secure regular access to his son and to be involved in decisions that concerned his child, he founded the Organization for the Protection of Children's Rights (OPCR) in 1983 as a non-profit organization to protect and defend the rights of children. Shaped by the intervening years, OPCR currently provides assistance to children and families experiencing difficulty in resolving family conflicts and is an advocate to help families avoid, reconcile, and resolve the trauma of a break-up. Learning from the mistakes of his own experience, Riccardo Di Done concludes his book by supporting participation in a conciliation counselling program for parents considering separation and divorce.

As a worthy companion to other texts on child welfare and family mediation, **Please Don't Let Me Go Papa !** is a testament to the personal and irrevocable cost to children, parents, and society in cases in which conciliation is not achieved. Reminding parents and professionals alike of the focus of all efforts in resolving family conflict, Di Done inspires reader to take action as an advocate of the best interests of the child.

Reviewer – Anne Toth, MSW, EdD, RSW, private practitioner and clinical social worker, Robarts School for the Deaf.