

I, Jared Armstrong, wish to state the following regarding my father, Jason Armstrong :

I could not ask for a better father. My father has always loved me and I know he always will. He is a man of love, respect and great humility. I have lived with him before. He was the best a father could be to a son. It is no different with the way he treats Tatjana and Sophia. He loves them with everything he has. I have seen him with them and he does everything with their best interests in mind. As for the situation of visiting South Africa with the girls I see no reason why this shouldn't be allowed. Africa might have problems but my father is the last person in the whole world I can see abusing that situation and kidnapping my sisters. Jason believes in children seeing their family and the visit to South Africa in December is mostly for Tatjana to see her grand parents that she loves very much and that love her very much. No-one in the whole family would let anything happen to Tatjana and the least of their worries is Jason kidnapping her. I find it ironic that Jason signed the passport papers for Tatjana and Sophia so they could go to Denmark. Why then is it that he is this monster who wants to kidnap the children? He willingly moved to Denmark so he could see his children. That move was purely out of love for his children. He is one of the few fathers who will do anything for his children and I admire him for that. I think he is the kind of father that others should be jealous of. He radiates love and compassion and all he wants is to be able to love his two darling little daughters.

On the note of custody. I am a child who, like my sisters, went through my parents splitting up. It was hard but I understood it was better than them being unhappy in the marriage. I was happy as long as I could see both parents. I only saw my father on the weekends and I wish I could have seen him more but his financial circumstances didn't allow him to have a support structure for me at the time. However this is not the case for Tatjana and Sophia. My dad is so open and ready to have both of them stay with him. I cannot stress how important I think it is to see both parents. Your parents are your teachers to the way the world works and each brings in certain elements. A child cannot develop fully without the love and care of both parents. I also think that this whole conflict between Maria and Jason is creating an environment that is hostile and the girls are affected by it. I think this conflict must end as soon as possible. Children feel much safer when their parents are happy. It cannot be healthy to see such bitter conflict between the two most important people of a child's life. It is not fair on the girls for them to be brought into a fight that is not of their doing. They should not be a way to get revenge or correct wrongs in Jason and Maria's marriage. I think it is time to put all of it in the past and look at what is best for Tatjana and Sophia. The girls should see both parents equally and should be able to visit both sides of the family both in Denmark and overseas.

Last point. I want to clarify that I am the one that did not want contact with Maria in the April holidays. My father said it was his decision so that things would not become uncomfortable between myself and Maria. I made this choice because last time I spoke to Maria, Maria twisted my words out of context and changed the intended meaning. What I had said was changed and used as a weapon in Maria's arsenal in her "war" against my dad which is fuelled by her own disappointments with life and not the concerns of the children.