



Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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Website www.parliament.uk/petitions-committee

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

13 July 2022

Dear Lord Chancellor

I am writing in relation to e-petition [614893](#), “Automatically suspend PR rights of parent guilty of murdering the other parent”, to which your department recently responded.

As I’m sure you are aware, the Government has agreed to provide clear and direct responses to every e-petition that receives over 10,000 signatures. While your department’s response to this petition sets out existing provisions for the exercise of parental responsibility to be limited by the courts, it does not directly respond to the request for the Government to automatically suspend parental responsibility of parents found guilty of murdering the other parent, for the duration of their sentence.

The Government’s response to this petition is, therefore, not consistent with the standards that have been agreed between the Committee and the Leader of the House of Commons. It is particularly disappointing that the Government’s response does not directly respond to the request of the petition, as it was almost four weeks late.

Where the Government’s response to a petition does not meet the standards that have been agreed, we normally request a revised response that does meet these standards. However, this petition has now received the 100,000 signatures to be considered for debate, and we have agreed to schedule a debate on this petition—which I will be opening—on Monday 12 September. I therefore thought it would be more helpful to write to you to highlight the shortcomings of the Government’s response, and make it clear that I expect the Minister who responds to this debate to be prepared to provide a direct response to the request of this petition: that when a person with parental responsibility is found guilty of murdering the other parent, they have their parental responsibility automatically suspended for the duration of the term of imprisonment.



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I'm sure you will agree that when a petition receives 10,000 signatures it deserves a timely and direct response from the Government. As this petition has now been signed by over 120,000 people, it would be unacceptable for the Government to fail to engage fully with its request.

I look forward to hearing the Government's views on the request of this petition on Monday 12 September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine".

Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee