

Mother wins support case

A mother who battled with the Child Support Agency to secure maintenance for her three children has won a test case victory in the House of Lords that will mean self-employed absent fathers making higher payments.

Five law lords held that self-employed fathers can no longer deduct capital allowances from their income to reduce the amount of child maintenance.

The challenge was brought by Helen Smith, from Oldham, who has fought over five years to secure what she believed were the right levels of child maintenance from her former husband Robert.

Bradley Williams, her solicitor from Family Law in Partnership, said of the ruling: "It confirms that child support is not a tax."