

Parental Alienation International

Advancing worldwide understanding in the field of parental alienation

pasg
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pasg 2025
Toronto

September 10 - 12, 2025

Marriott Downtown at Eaton Centre

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Welcome to the fourth issue of the 2025 *Parental Alienation International* newsletter, and thank you for joining us once again! We're grateful for your continued commitment to understanding and addressing the complexities of parental alienation.

Too often, the pain of a child rejecting a once-loved parent is dismissed as a natural consequence of divorce or so-called "high conflict" custody battles. But as this issue's featured articles make clear, the breakdown of a parent-child relationship is neither simple nor benign. These contributions illuminate not only the profound trauma endured by targeted parents and children, but also the systemic shortcomings that allow such harm to persist unchecked.

We begin with Ashish Joshi's "A is for Alienation," originally published in the Family Law Review of the NY State Bar Association. Joshi urges attorneys to reject the myths and superficial labels that cloud courtrooms and to recognize severe alienation as a form of psychological abuse. His practical strategies—from selecting the right expert witness to reframing legal arguments around child protection—serve as a clarion call for reform.

Dr. Wilfrid von Boch-Galhau, a pioneer in the psychiatric study of alienation, brings decades of clinical insight to his reflection on the legacy of Dr. Richard A. Gardner. His historical and global perspective reminds us that parental alienation is not a fringe theory, but a well-documented and evolving field that courts and clinicians must take seriously. As Dr. von Boch-Galhau warns, ignoring or trivializing this phenomenon is not only unscientific—it is dangerous.

Shawn Wygant's exploration of ex-parte contact suspensions emphasizes the importance of judicial restraint. His analysis of recent appellate decisions highlights the need for courts to consider the "least detrimental alternative" when faced with unverified allegations that can irrevocably sever the parent-child bond. This piece challenges us to think critically about how due process and harm reduction principles intersect in family law.

We also feature Dr. Lynn Steinberg's critical examination of the roles of Guardians ad Litem, minors' counsel, and child protective services. She lays bare the consequences of placing untrained or overburdened professionals in positions of influence—where their biases and oversights can exacerbate, rather than resolve, the very family conflicts they are meant to address.

Finally, the Targeted Parent's column features the song "Sorry," captured in raw, lyrical form, reminding us that beyond legal arguments and clinical terms are real families—fractured, grieving, and still hoping. Their stories are not statistics. They are calls to action.

If these articles move you, challenge you, or inspire your advocacy, we invite you to go deeper. Join us at the **PASG 2025 International Conference** in Toronto, September 10–12, 2025, where leading voices in law, psychology, and child advocacy will come together under this year's theme: "Best Practices in Parental Alienation Assessment, Intervention & Advocacy: A Roadmap for Judicial Accuracy and Resolution."

Together, let us work toward a future where no child is taught to hate a parent they once loved.

With gratitude,
Diana Alberter



September 10-12, 2025

Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) presents:

7th International Conference

Best practices in parental alienation assessment, intervention & advocacy: A roadmap for judicial accuracy and resolution

Join us for two thought-provoking days as we hear from world renowned experts in parental alienation theory, law, research, clinical practice, and lived experience. Our program features over 60 speakers and 6 subject streams from which to choose.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

Mme. Justice Marie-France Vincent (Quebec, Canada) will facilitate a conversation between Dr. Barbara Jo Fidler (psychologist), Brian Hall (lawyer), and 3 target parents:

- Joshua Homme (two-time GRAMMY winner and lead vocalist of the 9-time GRAMMY nominated rock band Queens of the Stone Age) of Dalle-Homme v Homme Los Angeles
- Mr. X of X v Y Canada
- Ms. G of F v G Canada

The cases involved allegations of domestic violence and parental alienation. They were resolved with the help of Court orders that included reversals in decision-making authority, a minimum 90-day protective separation, and attendance at the Family Bridges workshop & aftercare.

To register for the conference, please visit

www.pasg2025toronto.ca

Our lineup of 60+ experts in PA theory, law, research, clinical practice, policy, and lived experience

Ashish Joshi & Judge Jon Van Allsburg | *Proving Alienation Without Experts: Storytelling in the Courtroom*

Professor Nicholas Bala | *Parental Alienation - Junk Science or Child Abuse? A Question for Politicians, Judges or Psychologists?*

Dr. Inbal Kivenson Bar-On | *Severe forms of inadequate boundaries in child parent relationships as reflecting maltreatment and negative impact on children's psychological wellbeing among PA cases*

Dr. Paul Bensussan | *Silencing the Experts: The Targeting of Parental Alienation Specialists by Ideological Activist Movements – A French Case Study*

Dr. William Bernet | *Parental Alienation Theory: Official Synopsis*

Dr. Alan Blotcky | *Expert testimony in PA cases: Four scenarios that can be successful*

Dr. Mary Alvarez, Dr. Kelley Baker, & Dr. Amy Eichler | *Treatment Planning for Targeted and Favored Parents: Neurodevelopmental and Psychological Considerations*

Melanie Gill | *Triangulation, Trauma, and Truth*

Dr. Ben Hine | *The Prevalence of PABs in the United Kingdom*

Dr. Stan Korosi | *The Politics of Alienation and Implications for Advocacy: The Public, Political and Real Reasons Behind Kayden's, Picqui's, Kyra's Laws and Australian 2024 Family Law Reforms | Starting the Dialogue on A Social and Public Health Policy Framework for Alienation and Children's Needs*

Jesper Lohse | *BREAKING: New Parental Alienation Legislation in Denmark*

Dre. Amylie Paquin-Boudreau, Dr. Jennifer Harman, & Brian Ludmer | *Trajectories of families in parental alienation cases in Canadian courts*

Brian Ludmer | *What is wrong with how the legal, therapeutic, parenting coordination and child protection worlds are assisting families in crisis - Lessons from a Career in the Vortex*

Linda Gottlieb & Loretta Maase | *Trauma Informed Therapy for Parental Alienation*

Yaakov Aichenbaum | *The Danger of Unscientific Surveys Swaying Public Policy: The Project Justice Colorado Family Court Reform Report*

Anthony Bezzina | *How does parental alienation affect the psychological and mental ability on workers from a safety perspective*

Eveline van Dorp and Wessel Brouwer | *Bringing the impact of intimate relationships to life using a new powerful tool: Family Ties®*

Anthony Cauchi | *Recommendations for changes in family mentality reform*

Lawrence DeMarco | *"We Are the Media Now": A Networked Approach to Combating Misinformation About Parental Alienation*

Courtney Dowdall | *Escalation and Exclusion: Fathers' Narratives of Navigating Non-Cooperation and the Dynamics of Parental Alienation*

Randy Flood | *Parenting Under Siege: How Everyday Parenting Becomes a Battle for Targeted Parents*

Randy Flood & Zach Flood | *The Collateral Damage of Parental Alienation: High-Risk Dilemmas for Clinicians*

Joan Kloth-Zanard & Robert Garza | *Legislative Advancements*

Mary Gauci | *Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children's) mission*

Ginger Gentile | *The REVIVE Method: Restoring Relationships and Reversing Parental Alienation, Even in Severe Cases Without Judicial Intervention*

Rony Golczewski | *Parental Alienation in Switzerland: A Cultural, Developmental, Attachment, and Family Life-Cycle Perspective*

Linda Gunsberg | *The Rise and Fall of the Reset Plan*

Lisa Rothfus & Jayna Haney | *Setting the Alienated Parent Up for Success: Preparing for the First Parent-Child Joint Session*

Cynthia Hayek | *Learning from legal failures in family court*

Giorgio Ilacqua | *P.A.S.T.A.: Parental Alienation Syndrome and Transactional Analysis*

Michelle Jones | *Successes and Failures of Reunification Therapy: Lessons to be Learned*

Alyson Jones | *Reunification from the Inside Out*

Dr. Jennifer Harman, Dr. Richard Warshak, Dr. Amanda Sharples, & Joshua Marsden, M.S. | *Parental Alienating Behaviors: Ignore at Children's Peril*

Joshua Marsden | *The scientific rigor of parental alienation studies: A quality assessment of the peer reviewed research | Sibling rejection in parental alienation: Exploring dynamics, contributing factors, and impacts | Pilot study of parental alienation items in the adverse childhood experiences scale: The development of a screening tool*

Dr. Denise McCartan | *Clinical Psychology Assessment of Parents when Parental Alienation is Suspected*

Mme. Justice Marie-France Vincent, Dre. Francine Cyr, & Dre. Amylie Paquin-Boudreau | *A psychojudicial protocol for child resistance refusal dynamics*

Dr. William Bernet, Dr. Ben Hine, Dr. Jennifer Harman, & Dr. Yvonne M. Parnell | *Panel Discussion: Creative Research Initiatives Regarding Parental Alienation Theory*

Dr. Yvonne M. Parnell | *Family Bridges workshop and aftercare: 18 years of data*

Dr. Kathleen Reay | *Evaluating the Impact of the Family Reflections Reunification Program on Severely Alienated Children and Their Families*

Dr. Amanda Sharples | *The Connection between Parental Alienating Behaviours and Other Forms of Abuse*

Dr. Lena Hellblom Sjögren | *Family breakdowns in Sweden: Experiences of law practice in severe parental alienation cases*

Dr. Lynn Steinberg | *Debunking Myths: The Efficacy of Parental Alienation Reunification Therapy*

Linda Gunsberg & Jordan Trager | *The Trager-Gunsberg Multidisciplinary Fast-Track Legal, Treatment and Training Model for a Parental Alienation Court within the Family Court*

Dr. Mary Alvarez, Lisa Rothfus, & Christine Turner | *Parental Alienation: Missed Judicial and Clinical Opportunities in a Real Case Study*

Shawn Wygant | *When Should a Child's Exposure to Parental Alienation Behaviors Require a Child Protective Response? Exploring the Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model | Protective Parenting and Shared Parenting Models: Can They Co-Exist?*

R.K. | *Parental alienation – A parent journey from a victim to a hero*

Heleen Koppejan | *Learning from clinical and legal failures | Family violence, parental alienation and co-parenting*

Lilly Landikusic | *The Empowerment Collaborative Co-parenting Project - A Hybrid, Solution-Focused Clinical, Meditative, Protective and Legal Intervention Model to Effectively Identify, Screen/Assess and Treat Parental Alienation Abuse and/or Crimes*

Dr. Ken Lewis & Merle Lewis | *Using the 5-Factor Model in a Child Custody Evaluation*

Ian McArdle | *Parental Alienation in the Family Justice System in England and Wales*

Dana Laquidara & William J. McGee | *Both Sides Now: Two Stories of an Alienated Child and an Alienated Parent*

Heleen Koppejan, Mishu Kozlowski, Jenna Kozlowski, & Jasmine Nakano | *The Voice of the Child: Then and Now*

Jasmine Nakano | *International Parental Child Abduction to Developing Countries: Perspective of a child abducted to Bangladesh*

Matt Peloquin | *Grieving the Loss of Fatherhood: Addressing Disenfranchised Grief in Divorced Fathers Through Tailored Counseling Interventions*

Shawn Philbert | *You don't like my ruling so now you say I am biased! Enforcement of Parenting Coordinator Awards – Tools to Ensure Success when dealing with alienating conduct*

Dr. Mark Roseman | *Navigating High-Conflict Custody: The Role of Supervised Visitation*

Ivan Sammut | *Shifting the Dial in Parental Alienation Litigation – The Way Forward*

Joan Kloth-Zanard, Dr. Lynn Steinberg, & Charity Schneider | *Deconstructing Parental Alienation: A Comparative Analysis of Diagnostic Criteria and Related Concepts*

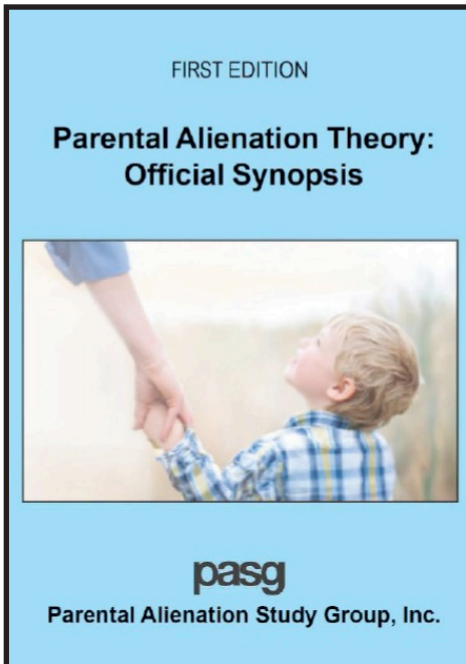
Natalie Williamson & Cory Sprunger | *The Sliding Scale of Parental Alienation Practice: A reference guide to implementing PA litigation strategies for all types of parental alienation cases*

Screening: The Stranger I Love, a film by Theresa Godly

Parental Alienation Theory: Official Synopsis

PASG is happy to announce the publication of our new book, *Parental Alienation Theory: Official Synopsis*. This book is unusual for several reasons.

- The “author” of the book is our organization, PASG, not any specific individuals. PASG owns the copyright to the book and will receive royalties when printed copies are sold.
- This book is short and readable. An attorney or a judge can read and understand basic principles of PA theory in about two hours. We encourage them all to do so!



- The PDF of the book is available for free on the homepage of the PASG website. Go to the homepage and scroll down a short way to find the link to the PDF. Please download the book and read it. However, do not post the PDF elsewhere on the internet or share it publicly, since anyone who wants a copy can download the master copy on our website.
- Printed copies of the *Official Synopsis* will be available soon, probably in the latter part of July. The book will be sold by the publisher (Charles C Thomas), Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other typical vendors. Every person who attends PASG 2025 this September in Toronto will receive a complimentary copy of the book.
- This publication is an exercise in “adversarial collaboration.” That is, we hope that critics of PA theory will send their comments and suggestions, which we will try to incorporate into future editions. We want this book to become a platform for building a broad consensus regarding PA theory.
- We hope the *Official Synopsis* will be translated into many languages. If you want to make that happen, contact Mr. Michael P. Thomas, President, Charles C Thomas Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, USA. Mr. Thomas may be reached at mthomas@ccthomas.com.

If you have comments, suggestions, or questions regarding this book, contact william.bernet@vumc.org. ■

A Is for Alienation: Tips on Litigating Parental Alienation in Custody Battles

By Ashish Joshi

This article was first published in the NYSBA *Family Law Review*, 2021, Vol. 53, No. 1

Family law is one of the top three highest risk areas of practice for attorneys in terms of malpractice exposure.¹

Within family law, cases involving parental alienation (PA) pose some of the unique challenges for a practitioner. In Amy J. L. Baker's survey, *Even When You Win You Lose: Targeted Parents' Perceptions of Their Attorneys*,² the targeted parents—the parents who are victims of alienation—were asked about their attorneys' handling of their case. The survey results provide us with a bleak outlook on how targeted parents viewed their attorneys' handling of their court cases. One targeted parent reported:

None of the attorneys involved in my custody case understood the impact of PA. . . . how it doesn't go away as the children get older! They kept telling me, 'Once the divorce is over, they will come back to you' . . . they had NO IDEA!

Other targeted parents reported that the lawyers were "in it" only for the money and lacked "any compassion or concern for the clients." One parent reported, "I feel like he couldn't care less about custody/access/visitation/parenting time. All he wanted to do was his paralegals and himself bill as many hours as possible." Yet another reported that the lawyer "told me to give up fighting for custody" and "tried to convince me to settle before all of my concerns were heard." The vast majority of attorneys who represented the targeted parents were perceived as not preparing their clients for the myriad professionals that become involved in cases involving PA, including guardians ad litem, minor's counsel, forensic evaluators, court-appointed therapists, and child protective service workers. Adding to the targeted parents' frustration was their outrage that their lawyers did nothing to enforce their rights or to hold the alienating parent accountable.

Lawyers who litigate PA cases can vastly benefit from proper training and education. It is imperative that these lawyers take the time to study the phenomenon of PA, carefully evaluate the facts of the case for evidence of alienation, and discuss with the client (if necessary, with input from experts in the area of behavioral sciences) the appropriate legal and mental health interventions to remedy the situation. Having litigated PA cases in a variety of jurisdictions all over America, and internationally, I offer the following tips to my professional colleagues.

(1) One of the oldest heuristics in medicine is *primum non nocere*—First, to do no harm. PA cases are not only notoriously difficult to litigate but *profoundly* counterintuitive. Before accepting such cases, a lawyer should go through a mental checklist. Ask yourself: are you competent to handle the assignment? Do you have

a solid understanding of PA? Do you understand the difference between PA and *Parental Alienation Syndrome*? Are you familiar with the myths of the PA theory? Are you prepared to debunk these myths in court? Do you keep up with the legal and mental health literature on the topic? And last but not least, are you willing to put in the *significant* time and energy that will undoubtedly be required on your part to competently represent your client in such cases?

(2) Check for and challenge your biases. It is critical to be aware of cognitive heuristics or biases and how they affect one's perception, thinking, and ability to frame and present a PA case. For instance, consider the heuristic of the *Fundamental Attribution Error*—concluding that a behavior is dispositional, when it is situational. Say, your client, a targeted parent-mother, sits before you. You can clearly see that she is angry. Very angry. She is angry about how her children mistreat her and disrespect her. She is angry about her ex, the father of the children, consistently undermining her as a parent, bad-mouthing and ridiculing her in front of the children. She is angry about how her parenting time is repeatedly violated, with zero consequences for such violations. She is angry about how "no one gets it." As an observer, it is quite likely that you, the lawyer, may think that your client has a characterological or dispositional flaw rather than looking at her behavior as situational. You may think, "I can see how angry she is in general. No wonder she is having problems with her kids and her ex. Perhaps, therapy can help her deal with her anger. In fact, I know just the right therapist who can help her." But just because a person is angry about a *specific* situation does not mean she is an angry person in *general*. You could find the rejected parent off-putting because she is anxious or assertive. This could make you susceptible to an argument of estrangement—i.e., your client's rejection by her children is legitimate or justified. And if that's how you frame the case for litigation, it may result in a totally inappropriate outcome and an incorrect ordering of priorities. You, the lawyer, have now made a bad case of PA far worse.

Ashish Joshi is the owner of the law firm Joshi: Attorneys + Counselors. Joshi's work focuses on complex family law matters including severe parental alienation, pathological child enmeshment, child abuse, and international child kidnapping. He has represented clients in state and federal courts across the United States and internationally. This article is excerpted from the authors' new book, *Litigating Parental Alienation: Evaluating and Presenting an Effective Case in Court* (ABA, 2021).

(3) Keep yourself abreast of the latest research, publications, and peer-reviewed literature on PA.

Get ready to debunk the myths and fallacies that surround the theory of PA. For instance, be prepared to educate the court that despite the commonly held belief, it is a myth that adolescents' stated preference should dominate custody decisions, especially if the adolescent has been alienated. It is also a commonly held, but false, belief that courts cannot enforce orders for parent-child contact against an alienated teen's wishes. Or that children who irrationally reject a parent but thrive in other respects (such as in school or with sports) need no intervention. These false beliefs have been repeatedly debunked in professional literature and judicial opinions.

(4) Frame the case properly. The primary goal in a PA case must be to protect the child from ongoing abuse. Professional literature makes it clear that causing severe PA is a form of child psychological abuse. Therefore, it is critical that the number one priority in such cases is to protect the child from further abuse. Instead, lawyers often ignore the abuse and instead focus on the child's relationship with the targeted parent. The failure to properly frame the case shifts the focus from child protection to superficially repairing the relationship between the child and the targeted parent. Instead of taking urgent and appropriate measures to ensure the child's safety and mental health, the court and the professionals now begin discussing "reunification therapy." This is a striking example of a misunderstanding of legal and clinical priorities.

(5) Challenge the fallacy of the "high conflict" model. The model *assumes* that both parents are equally or significantly responsible for the family dynamics. It also *assumes* that a child's rejection of or resistance to one parent cannot be traced to primary contributions from the other parent. It is, of course, plausible that this indeed may be the case. That upon a forensic investigation, one could determine that the case is "hybrid"—with both parents contributing to the family dynamics and the child's rejection of or resistance to a parent. But it would be a mistake, and a huge one at that, to simply *assume* from the outset that a case is a "high conflict" case simply because the parties appear to be hostile to each other. The high conflict model fails to consider the possibility that one parent might be the alienator and the other might be defending to save the parent-child relationship.

(6) Litigating PA cases requires meticulous and careful preparation. It is critical to provide the tools to the trier of fact to get the appropriate intervention. One of the effective ways to prove a PA case in court is to present the evidence using the five-factor model, which requires the proponent of PA to show: (1) the child actively avoids, resists, or refuses a relationship with a parent; (2) presence of a prior positive relationship between the child and the now rejected parent; (3) absence of abuse or neglect or seriously deficient parenting on the part of the now rejected parent; (4) use of multiple

alienating behaviors on the part of the favored parent; and (5) exhibition of many of the eight behavioral manifestations of alienation by the child.

(7) Learn to manage the clients. PA cases are notoriously difficult and extremely stressful to litigate. Often, they produce an alarming number of false allegations of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse by alienating fathers or mothers manipulating and indoctrinating their children into believing and making false allegations. Targeted parent-clients experience a host of emotions including frustration, outrage, bewilderment, anxiety, and fear caused by being falsely accused of heinous crimes or terrible behaviors on one hand and being rejected by their children on the other. They suffer from what psychologists call "ego-dystonic incongruity," a life-threatening form of stress with physical and psychological ramifications. Clients undergoing such stress cannot sleep, think, or aid their lawyers. Think about getting professional help to manage such clients. Remember, you are a lawyer, not a therapist.

(8) Think about using a parenting coach to help the client. Alienated children are not easy to parent. As one parent described her children, "I no longer recognize my kids. It's like the spark has gone out of their lives. As soon as they see me, they put in their earphones on or go into their room and close the door. No hi, no hello. . . . nothing." Targeted parent faces a dilemma: if she "truly" loves the children, she should, as the children (and the alienating parent) asks, "leave them alone" and "walk away." But if she does that, the children may be alienated for good and the relationship gone. If she refuses to "walk away," the children retort, "You don't get it! It's all about you." It's the classic damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't conundrum. In such scenarios, there is a danger of the targeted parent's frustration boiling over and engaging in behaviors that essentially play into the hands of the alienating parent. To avoid such situations, a lawyer should consider recommending that the client retain the services of a parenting coach. Parental coaching is a valuable tool in a litigator's toolbox. It helps the lawyer stay in her lane and focus on legal issues instead of giving parenting advice.

(9) Select the right expert. If a trial is in the cards—and in PA cases, it almost always is—you will need a good expert to effectively present a case in court. Expert testimony in PA cases should cover the three "S's" of parental alienation: symptoms of alienation in the child; strategies of alienators—and—the sequelae of parental alienation in the lives of the child affected. When making a decision on using an expert, a lawyer will need to decide whether the expert should function as a "general," education-only expert or as a "specific," education-and-case-specific expert. The former expert would not be privy to the underlying facts of the case and would not offer an opinion as to whether PA is present in that particular case. Such an expert would, however, describe the phenomenon of PA, the peer-reviewed scientific literature in support of the condition,

the five-factor model for determining whether it is present, typical behaviors of an alienating parent, typical symptoms of an alienated child, short-term and long-term sequelae of parental alienation, and, last but not least, why the court should intervene in cases involving PA, and intervene early rather than late. Such a general expert can also answer hypothetical questions from attorneys and/or judge, which can help link the educational testimony to the facts of the case. In contrast, the case-specific expert, in addition to the educational testimony, would also testify about the facts of the case, and would proffer an opinion as to whether PA exists in the case, and if so, what should be done about it. There are pros and cons associated with each kind of expert and a lawyer should weigh these carefully before making a decision.

(10) Prepare the client for a forensic evaluation. PA cases often involve forensic evaluations. Make sure that the client understands that a forensic evaluation is an investigation, *not* therapy. One of the sure-fire ways to tank a forensic evaluation is for a lawyer to counsel her client “to be herself” when meeting with the evaluator. Remember the Snickers commercial where a belligerent Joe Pesci turns into an affable young man after taking a bite of the candy bar? Sending an unprepared targeted parent-client to an evaluation is like sending in ornery Joe Pesci. A client who is distressed by her children’s rejection, who is outraged by the repeated violations of her court-ordered parenting time, who is frustrated having been through several baffling and infuriating “therapy” sessions with her children, is a person who has undergone trauma. Without proper preparation, such a person, typically, is ill-equipped to present a coherent picture of the family dynamics to an evaluator. Unless the lawyer takes the time to ensure that the client understands the dynamics of a forensic evaluation, there is a high risk that the client will rush in and regurgitate the pent-up complaints and frustration and simply trash the alienating parent. She risks playing into the hands of the alienating parent who has or will portray her as “abusive,” “angry,” “authoritarian,” “devoid of empathy,” or simply difficult to deal with. Preparing the client for a forensic evaluation is a critical part of litigating parental alienation cases. If a lawyer does not believe that this is within the scope of the attorney-client relationship, he should alert the client to the need for preparation and make referrals or suggestions for such preparation.

(11) Help the client prepare a package of well-organized documents for the evaluator’s review. Forensic evaluators’ findings, recommendations, and opinions are only as good as the data that they are based on. An experienced forensic evaluator is always prepared to meet an examining lawyer’s (or judge’s) question, “Where’d you get that?” and explain her analysis. Record review is an important part of the forensic evaluation process. Evaluators review a wide variety of records—photographs, videos, audio recordings, letters, emails, greeting cards, affidavits, transcripts, court pleadings, school records, therapy notes, medical

records, police reports, child protective services reports, and a host of other kinds of materials. The exercise of putting together a package of materials for a forensic evaluator should be done carefully and with diligence. This is not a data dump. Do not expect an evaluator to comb through a mountain of haphazard documents and materials and find corroborating evidence to support the client’s narrative. It’s the lawyer’s job to help the client present an accurate, complete, and organized narrative to a forensic evaluator.

(12) Counsel the client to follow court orders and show respect towards the court and the legal process. Targeted parents typically suffer from chronic frustration and an overwhelming sense of helplessness. When no relief is in sight and alienation continues, there is a risk that the targeted parent may want to “shake the things up.” Often, a lawyer’s refusal or failure to seek timely action adds to the parent’s frustration and outrage. A frustrated client is likely to express her frustration in an unhelpful manner. She may speak out of turn at a court hearing, refuse to make a child support or alimony payment, and vent her frustration by posting unhelpful comments on social media. But a client who knows that her lawyer not only cares about the case but is also working diligently to execute a plan of action will not only be easier to deal with but will be an important ally in preparing the case for litigation. Some of my best outcomes in litigating parental alienation cases have been when the clients undertook the task of gathering and organizing a mountain of information for use in litigation. Encourage and empower the clients to help you help them.

(13) Understand that time is the enemy. In PA cases, delay only serves the alienating parent and can frequently allow the child to age out and be beyond the court intervention. Even if children don’t reach majority, they frequently come of an age where judges simply assume that any decision related to reunification will be fruitless, or it is simply too late, or the children will reunite “on their own” as they get older. Lawyers who fail or refuse to act appropriately and in a timely manner end up causing a lot of frustration and harm, sometimes irreparable, to the clients and their relationship with their children.

Litigating cases involving parental alienation is challenging, often frustrating, and, on occasions, painful. It is gut-wrenching to see a targeted parent’s grief over the loss of a child—a child who is biologically alive, but emotionally and psychologically dead to the parent. All we can do as lawyers who represent targeted parents is to promise our clients that we will represent them in a competent, diligent, and honest manner.

Endnotes

1. See, e.g., <http://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/publications/youraba/2018/april-2018/why-every-lawyer-needs-malpractice-insurance/>.
2. The American Journal of Family Therapy, 38:292-309 (2010).

The “Players” in the Family Court Dramas: Guardian Ad Litem and/or Minors’ Counsel

Lynn Steinberg, PhD

IN MY EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN COURT PROCEEDINGS, Guardians ad Litem (GALs) and Minors’ Counsel have been less than helpful. GALs and Minors’ Counsel can sometimes create challenges in legal proceedings—although their mandate is to serve important protective functions.

GALs AND MINORS’ COUNSEL

GALs or minors’ counsel can slow proceedings by requiring additional time for investigations, interviews, and report preparation. They may introduce competing perspectives that complicate settlement negotiations, especially when their recommendations differ from what parents or other parties prefer.

I find that these court officials lack sufficient training or experience in child development, domestic violence, and parental alienation leading to recommendations that do not truly serve the child’s best interests.

Case Study

A case I worked on involved a 6-year-old child who had been sexually abused by the father. The judge, who was retiring after this case and intended to act as a mediator, appointed a Minor’s Counsel. It was obvious from their open court conversation that they had a positive relationship. Minor’s Counsel sat with the father’s attorney, with whom she also had a “special relationship.” She reported having a phone call with the child the night before and confidently asserted that the father had not sexually abused the child.

The two attorneys and the judge made inappropriate remarks to one another and even attempted to have the expert witness removed from the case. Although that failed, the result was that the child was ordered to continue unmonitored visitation with the father and, within a certain time, transition to shared custody.

Additional Issues with GALs and Minors’ Counsel

- Poor communication between GALs, attorneys, and other professionals can cause confusion and delays.
- Some GALs may become overly adversarial rather than focusing on objective investigation.
- Others may be so overburdened with cases that they are unable to give adequate attention to each child.
- Role confusion is common, courts sometimes fail to distinguish between GALs who investigate and recommend, versus minors’ counsel who advocate for the child’s expressed wishes.
- Courts often misunderstand or misuse these roles, appointing one to act as the other, simply to give the appearance that the child’s voice is being heard.

I have worked on many cases where even the “well-respected” heads of departments have not met the children until right before court hearings. Many have “special relationships” with the judges who appoint them repeatedly.

Characteristics of Effective GALs and Minors’ Counsel

- Have specialized training in child development, trauma, and family dynamics.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries while still building rapport with children.

- Conduct thorough, objective investigations, speaking with teachers, therapists, medical providers, and other relevant figures.
- Communicate clearly and efficiently, providing courts with concise, informed recommendations.
- Recognize when to consult mental health professionals or other experts.
- Work within procedural timelines and understand the legal system.

GALs can be counselors, therapists, or attorneys. Effective minors' counsel understand how to balance the child's expressed wishes with their actual best interests, and can provide unbiased, ethical advocacy. However, alienating parents often manipulate minors' counsel into taking their side. Both roles require cultural competence, the ability to work collaboratively, and the independence to avoid judicial or parental influence.

Inadequate Supervision, Education, and Training

In most cases, these standards are not met. Neither minors' counsel nor GALs are consistently trained to make valid recommendations. Meanwhile, licensed expert witnesses, who are trained, are often prohibited from making such recommendations by their licensing boards.

No GAL or minors' counsel's opinion should be considered valid unless they have proper training in child development and parental alienation. They should be vetted by the court just like expert witnesses.

Testimony by Children

Both GALs and minors' counsel often recommend that children testify. Children should never be forced to choose between parents or testify in court. According to *Children Held Hostage: Identifying Brainwashed Children, Presenting a Case, and Crafting Solutions* (Clawar & Rivlin, 2014), a study funded by the American Bar Association, found that 86% of children in high-conflict divorce cases simply repeat what the alienating parent tells them. Testifying against a once-loved parent can have lasting psychological harm.

Conclusion on GALs and Minors' Counsel

The key is to have well-trained, fairly compensated professionals with manageable caseloads, who clearly understand their role and act solely in the best interest of the child.

CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) SOCIAL WORKERS

Inadequate Education, Training, and Experience

Dependency Courts, where cases involving alleged abuse are heard, are notorious for their over-reliance on CPS social workers. These individuals may hold only associate or bachelor's degrees in unrelated fields and receive minimal departmental training.

They are tasked with conducting investigations and presenting findings to the judge, often without the involvement of an expert witness. In fact, experts are frequently barred from testifying altogether.

I have personally witnessed social workers tell the judge, "There is no parental alienation in this case," even when it clearly existed. The judge simply follows the social worker's recommendation.

Because of their lack of training, social workers are vulnerable to aligning with the alienating parent. They hold long, unstructured meetings with “treatment teams,” where children are praised for “being brave” or “speaking up” language that may inadvertently reinforce alienation rather than heal family relationships.

Incentives to Remove Children

When a child is removed from the home and placed into foster care, CPS becomes eligible for funding and resources. This can create a perverse incentive to “protect” children from parents even when unwarranted.

Despite their mandate to reunify families, CPS workers may alienate children from one parent and then claim the child is “not ready” for therapy or contact with that parent.

Case Study

In a case I’ve worked on for five years, a 12-year-old girl self-referred to CPS during COVID said her mother abused her because she was bored at home. In reality, the child was physically abusive toward her mother.

There was no valid reason for removal. The child’s therapist was dismissed from the case because CPS required a therapist with 24/7 availability. Over the next five years, the child had 15 different foster placements. No therapy was provided to reunite mother and daughter.

Eventually, on CPS’s recommendation, the court terminated family therapy entirely. The child now enjoying attention and control over the situation remains separated from her mother. All assigned therapists have been in training, not licensed.

Family Court vs. Dependency Court

In Family Court, CPS reports are often not even introduced into evidence. Social workers rarely testify, and their reports are withheld “to maintain confidentiality” (more accurately, to protect the department). Expert witnesses must sometimes ask the alienated parent’s attorney to subpoena the report just to include it in their professional findings.

Final Thoughts: Without rigorous training, transparent oversight, and accountability, both GALs and CPS social workers can cause irreparable harm to children and families.

The system must prioritize competent professionals, ensure expert guidance is heard, and work toward healing not prolonging family breakdowns. ■

Parental Alienation and the Least Detrimental Alternative: An Important Safeguard in Cases that Involve Ex-Parte Contact Suspension Orders

Shawn A. Wygant, MA

PARENTAL ALIENATION IS A COMMON PROBLEM that arises when a parent engages in behavior likely to cause harm to the child's relationship with the other parent (Wygant, 2024).¹ It is not uncommon for the alienating parent in such cases to resort to making unfounded allegations of child abuse as a tactic for gaining sole possession of the children.² When this occurs, family courts often enter ex-parte orders that suspend the targeted parent's contact with the children until a child protective services investigation is complete or until the court conducts a full evidentiary hearing.³

In the recent case of *Sanchez v. Healey* (2024), the Michigan Court of Appeals vacated an ex-parte order that suspended a targeted mother's parenting time. The alienating father had falsely accused the mother of abuse as a tactic to exclude the mother from the family. When the mother raised her concerns about parental alienation by the father, the court dismissed them. The court of appeals held that the trial court violated the mother's procedural due process rights by failing to fully hear her concerns during an evidentiary hearing on the mother's objections to the ex-parte parenting time suspension order. The court of appeals was concerned that the trial court displayed indifference "toward the amount of time that elapsed without plaintiff [mother] being allowed any contact, including supervised and telephone, with her children."⁴

The *Sanchez* case illustrates a critical safeguard that was missing in the trial court's best interests of the child analysis: a proper evaluation of the least detrimental alternative. The least detrimental alternative is a harm-reduction principle that guides professionals and courts to select an option that poses the least disruption or psychological risk to the child's ongoing development, attachment security, and identity formation.⁵ This principle was explicitly addressed in the Colorado case of *In re the Marriage of Hatton* (2007), in which an alienating mother's parenting time was suspended without a best interests analysis that included consideration of the least detrimental alternative.⁶ The appellate court emphasized that "applying the best interests standard includes determining whether there is a less detrimental alternative to ending all contact between a parent and a child"⁷ citing its earlier decision in *Marriage of Martin* (2002) which held that the least detrimental alter-

¹ Wygant, S. A. (2024, October 5). *When should a child's exposure to parental alienation behaviors require a child protective response? Exploring the Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model* [Conference presentation]. 2024 Parental Alienation Consortium Legislative Summit, Southbury, CT.

² Saini, M., Laajasalo, T., & Platt, S. (2020). Gatekeeping by allegations: An examination of verified, unfounded, and fabricated allegations of child maltreatment within the context of resist and refusal dynamics. *Family Court Review*, 58(2), 417-431.

³ *Sanchez v. Healey*, No. 370627 (Mich. Ct. App. Oct. 15, 2024).

⁴ Id. at p. 5

⁵ Goldstein, J., Solnit, A. J., Goldstein, S., & Freud, A. (1996). *The best interests of the child: The least detrimental alternative*. The Free Press.

⁶ *In re Marriage of Hatton*, 160 P.3d 326 (Colo. Ct. App. 2007)

⁷ Id. at 332.

native is subsumed within the concept of the best interests of the child.⁸ Importantly, whereas Sanchez case involved the suspension of the targeted parent’s parenting time, Hatton involved suspension of the alienating parent’s contact with the children. In both cases, the appellate courts held that trial courts must not ignore the least detrimental alternative when applying the best interests of the child standard.

In some cases, the least harmful option is not considered when the *endangerment* standard overshadows judicial decision-making—particularly during ongoing child abuse investigations.⁹ According to Melton et al. (2007), the endangerment standard requires courts to determine whether a parent’s conduct poses a serious and likely risk to a child’s physical safety or emotional development to justify limiting or terminating contact. Under the Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act (1973), the endangerment standard is framed as a prohibition against the government arbitrarily restricting visitation: “The court shall not restrict a parent’s visitation rights unless it finds that the visitation would endanger seriously the child’s physical, mental, moral, or emotional health.”¹⁰ A critical legal challenge arises in determining how courts should apply the three standards—best interests of the child, endangerment, and least detrimental alternative—in cases of parental alienation child abuse.¹¹ The following table provides a comparative overview of each standard’s purpose and operational focus:

Table 1: Comparison of Key Standards

Standard	Core Question	Operational Definition Focus
Best Interests of the Child	What will most promote the child’s overall well-being?	Comprehensive evaluation of factors affecting development, relationships, safety, and stability
Least Detrimental Alternative	Which available option is least harmful to the child?	Harm-reduction model prioritizing stability, continuity, and emotional development
Endangerment	Is the child at serious risk of harm?	Requires evidence of significant physical or emotional risk necessitating protective intervention

These standards are not mutually exclusive. Rather, they form a hierarchical framework through which courts need to evaluate competing claims of abuse. **The Endangerment Threshold** should first be used to determine whether a proposed limitation on contact is legally justified. This threshold must be satisfied with clear and convincing evidence—not merely allegations—as emphasized in *Sanchez*. **The Least Detrimental Alternative** serves to limit unnecessarily harsh or totalistic interventions when less restrictive options—such as supervised visitation—can eliminate the risk of harm. **The Best Interests Analysis** integrates both endangerment and the least detrimental alternative principles to ensure that long-term developmental and relational outcomes are prioritized over short-term expediencies.

⁸ *In re Marriage of Martin*, 42 P.3d 75 (Colo. Ct. App., 2002)

⁹ Melton et al. (2007). *Psychological evaluations for the courts: A handbook for mental health professionals and lawyers* (3rd ed.). Guilford Press.

¹⁰ Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act (UMDA), § 407 (1970, amended 1973)

¹¹ See, e.g., *Clark v. Wade*, 273 Ga. 587, 544 S.E.2d 99 (2001) (emphasizing that the best interests standard must be balanced with constitutional protections of parental rights); *In re D.A.T.*, 170 S.W.3d 865 (Tex. App. 2005) (holding that the state must show evidence of endangerment to justify termination of parental rights); *Matter of Bennett v. Schultz*, 110 A.D.3d 792, 972 N.Y.S.2d 671 (2d Dep’t 2013) (holding that a trial court must consider the least detrimental alternative before restricting parenting time based on alienation claims).

Cases involving serious allegations of abuse, especially parental alienation, demand a careful, layered judicial approach.¹² As courts have increasingly recognized, abrupt judicial responses—such as ex parte suspensions of parenting time—must be subject to rigorous evidentiary review and developmental consideration to avoid long-term harm.¹³ Grounding these decisions in the best interests of the child, requiring proof of actual endangerment rather than assumptions, and applying the least detrimental alternative standard ensures a more balanced, rights-respecting outcome.¹⁴ This integrative approach offers the clearest path to serving the interests of justice while safeguarding the children’s psychological well-being.¹⁵ ■

¹² See *Clark v. Wade*, 273 Ga. 587, 594, 544 S.E.2d 99, 106 (2001) (“In child custody matters, the trial court must consider the totality of the circumstances, and the child’s welfare and best interests are paramount.”)

¹³ *Zafran v. Zafran*, 740 N.Y.S.2d 596, 602 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 2002) (“Even serious allegations must be tested by adversarial process; blanket prohibitions on contact based on unchallenged claims risk irreparable harm.”)

¹⁴ *Rowe v. Franklin*, 663 So. 2d 956, 957 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1995) (parenting restrictions require “competent, substantial

¹⁵ *Rideout v. Riendeau*, 761 A.2d 291, 299 (Me. 2000) (“Any restriction on a parent’s contact must account for the emotional and developmental consequences for the child.”)



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You can find PASG on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentalAlienationStudyGroup/>

Visit our Facebook page, become a friend, and write a comment.

Personal Notes on the Beginning of My Early Steps in the Parental Alienation Arena and Memories of Richard A. Gardner, MD

*Wilfrid von Boch-Galhau, MD
Würzburg, Germany*

WHEN, IN 1987, I began as a young psychiatrist and psychotherapist in my practice, I didn't know much about the concept of Parental Alienation. At this time an important film with the title "Effi Briest" was shown in German cinemas, based on the famous novel by Theodor Fontane which I have seen three times because of the excellent presentation of the issue of parental alienation.

"Effi Briest, the protagonist of this novel, confides to her mother 'the act by which he wounded me most deeply, the teaching of my only child to shun me.' Just one month after this statement Effi dies of consumption, aged 26. Having been banished by her husband, she spent almost four years cut off from her former environment and completely alienated from her daughter, Annie, 10 years old by then, lonely and without any meaning in her life.¹

In the following years, two important groups of patients – men and women – who increasingly sought psychiatric or psychotherapeutic help came into my practice. Research in the US indicates that in parental alienation cases that are evaluated by an expert and/or decided by a trial or appellate judge in the period 1985 – 2018, 25 % are identified as male and 75 % as female alienators.²

In adult children of divorce, some of them with considerable mental and psychosomatic disorders, their conflicts were found to result from problems with self-esteem, identity and relationships (like personality disorder, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, addictions, posttraumatic stress disorder and others), caused by the loss of one parent following the parents' separation or divorce during childhood or adolescence. In a few cases, the problems were different in character and involved children being separated and alienated from their parents (such as in the case of "alienation" by the authorities, or "abduction and alienation").

The second group consisted of parents who had lost some or all contact with their child or children for months or years following separation or divorce. These people sought help in a severe mental, psychosomatic or suicidal crisis, since the loss of contact and curtailment of the relationship between child and parent is a traumatic event, not just for the children but also for the alienated parent.

With this knowledge in mind, I searched for consultation with colleagues who were more experienced in this field. I found the very knowledgeable German psychologists and family therapists Ursula Kodjoe (Freiburg), Walter Andritzky (Düsseldorf), and the attorney Peter Koeppel (Munich) who had written early articles on the parental alienation concept (1990, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003). I also became aware of the US child psychiatrist Richard Gardner, M. D. and who had already had experience with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg. This international court had passed judgements about the parental alienation concept in the late 1990s and had raised awareness of the reality of parental alienation and its long-term health consequences.

¹ I thank to my colleague Dr. med. Astrid Camps, Eitdorf, Germany, to let me use this text.

² Lorandos, D. & Bernet, W.: Parental Alienation – Science and Law, C. C. Thomas publ., Springfield, IL., USA, 2020, p. 371.

I decided to visit Dr. Gardner personally in New Jersey in 1990. Arriving there, I was impressed by his open minded, empathetic, and competent attitude to me as a young psychiatrist who came from abroad to know more about parental alienation. We talked intensely in his house for several hours. At the end he gave me two books as a present: “Parental Alienation Syndrome” (1992/1998) and “Therapeutic interventions for children with Parental Alienation Syndrome” (2001). He also gave me several peer-reviewed articles, among them R. A. Gardner (2002) “Misinformation versus facts about the contributions of Richard A. Gardner, M. D.”, *American Journal of Family Therapy* 30 (5) 395 – 416, and he said, “It is a long and hard way to go – something like a ‘marathon’ – because the head-wind of contradictory and polarized opinions, hostile and ad hominem attacks by special interest groups, by some colleagues and even by academic professionals are very intense.” Only later I understood his remarks.

Dr. Gardner passed away on May, 25th 2003. Most psychiatrists would be content to have a thriving clinical practice. Some have one or two published articles to their credit. The more ambitious have written more articles, perhaps even a book or two. Dr. Gardner wrote more than 130 articles that were judged by panels of expert reviewers to be worthy of publication in scholarly journals. He wrote 40 books. His contributions to the field of psychotherapy with children, psychotherapy with children of divorce, and custody evaluations are considered classic works in the field and are cited often in the professional literature and in psychotherapy textbooks.

Dr. Gardner wrote about Parental Alienation Syndrome and about sex abuse allegations. He was one of the first to say publically that sometimes children do lie and that we should not automatically accept all allegations of abuse as true. As a result of this work, Dr. Gardner was attacked, smeared and vilified. In their attempt to alienate audiences from Dr. Gardner’s work, his critics used the same tactics as do parents who demonize a parent or grandparent in an effort to poison children’s affection and respect. No one ever accused Richard Gardner of being timid. He was in the arena his entire professional life to the very end, passionately, eagerly and tirelessly, sharing his knowledge and insights.

In the study of alienated children there is one man upon whose shoulders everyone stands. Anyone who studies, writes about, or seeks to understand the phenomenon of alienated children cannot do so without paying homage to Dr. Richard A. Gardner.³

After having worked nearly for 30 years in the field of parental alienation, we can say today: It is even now more evident that Dr. Richard Gardner was on the right path when he sought to identify the process of alienation, and when he suggested different interventions for the three stages of this disorder. Family therapists need to be completely familiar with this literature because, without a doubt, they will find this kind of disorder repeatedly in their clinical practices.⁴

³ R. A. Warshak in Gardner, R. A., Sauber, S. R. & Lorandos, D.: International Handbook of Parental Alienation Syndrome, Conceptual, clinical and legal considerations, 2006, p. V, VI, C. C. Thomas, Springfield, IL, USA.

⁴ Sweeny, L. M. (2013). Parental alienation behavior. In L. M. Hooper, L. L’Abate, L. M. Sweeney, G. Giansini & P. J. Jankowski (Eds.), Models of psychopathology: Generational and relational processes (pp. 55- 73). New York, NY: Springer-Science.

It is quite disconcerting that the scientific debate – particularly in Germany and Austria^{5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10} but also internationally¹¹ – is apparently not based on democratic principles but on ideological and political orientation. Parental alienation (the term ‘parental alienation syndrome’ is antiquated) has been trivialised, denied, and even opposed by some experts and social interest groups for years.

There is a sound basis of research into PA as an interactional process, where the child experiences erosion of the role of mother or father (this is not a gender-specific issue!), and into the effects of PA. At the international level, research is continually evolving. Forty percent of studies on parental alienation have been published since 2016. Today, more than 1000 works of scientific relevance have been published, including empirical studies, textbooks, book chapters, book reviews and peer-reviewed papers, some of them in high ranking professional international journals (see: <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/32bfb923-d01e-4723-bfbf-69b5436b180b/downloads/Parental%20Alienation%20Research%20%26%20Resources%20List%20.pdf?ver=1699695639949>). See also https://www.kimiss.uni-tuebingen.de/de/pa_lit.html.

In a ruling of the German Federal Constitutional Court (1 BvR 1076/73 of 17 November 2023) it was recently decided not to admit parental alienation based on a single German article¹². Thus, the Federal Constitutional Court has declared a global scientific debate closed, **ignoring** over a thousand international research papers on PA and related rulings of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. In countries like Germany and Austria, despite the actual state of international science, the denialism of parental alienation is very serious. This is the result of a biased reporting by some professionals for years and a campaign by special interest groups concerning parental alienation (see the foot notes 5 – 10 and others).

Wrong narratives must not become the basis for legal practice or legislation

Some countries (e.g., Denmark) recently have adopted legislation to protect child welfare and ensure contact with both “good-enough” parents as basic principles in family law and in social practice. It goes without saying

⁵ Fegert, J. M. (2001). Parental Alienation oder Parental Accusation Syndrome? Die Frage der Suggestibilität, Beeinflussung und Induktion in Umgangsrechtsgutachten [Parental Alienation or Parental Accusation Syndrome ? The issue of suggestibility, indoctrination and induction in expert reports for access rights] [German] Kindschaftsrechtliche Praxis 4 (1): 3 – 7 and 4 (2): 39 – 42.

⁶ Salgo, L. (2006) Das Wohl des Kindes unter den Aspekten gesetzlicher Einflüsse [The welfare of a child and the influences of the law] [German]; In: Brisch, K. H. & Hellbrügge, Th. (Eds.) Kinder ohne Bindung – Deprivation, Adoption und Psychotherapie [Children without attachment – deprivation, adoption and psychotherapy] [German], pp. 259 – 76, Stuttgart, Klett-Cotta.

⁷ Salzgeber, J. (2003). Zum aktuellen Stand der PAS-Diskussion [On the current status of the PAS debate] [German]. Forum Familien- und Erbrecht 7 (6): 232 – 5.

⁸ Altendorfer-Kling, U., Kliemann, A., Fegert, J. (2024). Fachtermini aus Medizin und Psychologie als Plädierformeln im Recht – PAS und andere Mythen ohne Evidenzbasierung. Forum Familienrecht 3 (24): 99.

⁹ Altendorfer-Kling, U. (2024). Intrafamiliäre Gewalt im Kontakt- und Sorgerechtsverfahren – Ein Fall von Kindeswohlgefährdung im Familiengericht – Wo greifen Maßnahmen zum Kinderschutz? Neuropsychiatrie 38: 198 – 209.

¹⁰ Zimmermann, J., Fichtner, J. Walper, S., Lux, U., Kindler, H. (2023). Verdorbener Wein in neuen Schläuchen – Teil 1 und 2, Warum wir allzu einfache Vorstellungen von „Eltern-Kind-Entfremdung“ hinter uns lassen müssen. Zeitschrift Kindschaftsrecht und Jugendhilfe (ZkJ), (2): 43 – 46 und (3): 83 - 89.

¹¹ Examples include the European “Grevio Report” of 16 September 2021, and the report by the Special Rapporteur Ms. Reem Alsalem, published on 13 April 2023 by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations <https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/xpSearchResultsM.xsp>, and followed by professional scientific analysis and harsh criticism by PASG (www.pasg.info) and GARI-PA (www.garipa.org; https://bit.ly/Analysis_of_the_Report).

¹² Zimmermann, J., Fichtner, J. Walper, S., Lux, U., Kindler, H. (2023). Verdorbener Wein in neuen Schläuchen – Teil 1 und 2, Warum wir allzu einfache Vorstellungen von „Eltern-Kind-Entfremdung“ hinter uns lassen müssen. Zeitschrift Kindschaftsrecht und Jugendhilfe (ZkJ), (2): 43 – 46 und (3): 83 - 89.

that professionals must take a differentiated approach in the treatment of issues relating to parental alienation where other forms of violence or abuse are also present.

Parental alienation and the loss of contact between children and their “good-enough” parents represent a serious threat to child welfare, health, and the wellbeing of children and society as a whole. The treatment of parental alienation, including special interventions for children and alienated parents, and specific programs for reuniting children and their parents for the benefit of child and family welfare during and after a divorce, are of major importance in this respect!

Further developments

In October 2002 an interdisciplinary team of psychiatrists, child psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and legal professionals under the leadership of Ursula Kodjoe, Dr. Walter Andritzky, Dr. Koeppel and Dr. Wilfrid von Boch-Galhau organized one of the first international conferences on the parental alienation concept, which occurred in Frankfurt/Main. About 350 attendees from 16 countries came together for two days to discuss theoretical and practical aspects of the parental alienation concept. Drs. Richard Gardner, Richard Warshak, and Christopher Barden from the US were invited as key-speakers. The success of this conference was the lively exchange between the international, interdisciplinary professionals and parents. Many participants expressed their hope that it ought to be the beginning of a series of further such conferences. These followed 2017 in Washington (USA), 2018 in Stockholm (Sweden), 2019 in Pennsylvania (USA), 2020 in Brussels (Belgium), 2022 in Fort Collins (USA), 2024 in Oslo (Norway) and will take place 2025 in Toronto (Canada), organized by the Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG).

In 2009 the Parental Alienation Study Group (www.pasg.info) was founded under the leadership of William (Bill) Bernet, M.D., Professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in USA. PASG is a non-profit organization which promotes research and education on the topic of PA. It contains today about 1000 members from 65 countries.

In August 2025 PASG will publish a new book: “Parental Alienation Theory – Official Synopsis”, C. C. Thomas Publ., Springfield, IL., USA. This book has been written by 16 prominent members of PASG and is a concise summary of main aspects of parental alienation theory and practice. With this book PASG hopes to encourage dialogue between proponents of parental alienation theory and the critics of PA. That can be accomplished by bringing up the topic at leadership discussions, committee meetings, relevant task forces, professional conferences, and in mental health and legal journal articles.

Finally, I owe a debt of gratitude for all the 30 years of intense international collegueship and friendship with so many wonderful and competent women and men in the parental alienation arena. Heartfelt thanks and homage, especially to the late Dr. Richard Gardner and to Dr. William Bernet, for the professional leadership over so many years, which helped to understand and to work with the very complex topic of parental alienation in the health systems and in societies. ■

Wilfrid von Boch-Galhau, M. D. (retired)

Specialist in psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine & psychotherapy
Private psychotherapeutic Practise, Würzburg, Germany
Former member of the Interdisciplinary Working Group
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Member of the International Parental Alienation Study Group
(<https://pasg.info>)

praxis@drvboch.de, www.pas-konferenz.de

All trues passes through three states:

In the first it is ridiculed,

in the second it is violently opposed,

in the third it is accepted as self evident.

(Arthur Schopenhauer; 1788 – 1860)

“Sorry”

Dave Wang, Adam Horrocks

Lyrics

Link to Music Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnpIJI-8WQ8>

You tell us that you're sad
That you hate your mom and dad
Were we there enough
When your life got tough
To get you through the rough?

While your mom would spoil
I let frustration boil
Didn't act as one
We both let you down
The harm can't be undone

You say that our regret
Can't help you to forget
You say you need to leave
Our words you won't believe
And our love you won't receive

We're sorry...

A way to push rewind
Clear the memories left behind
No guide to raise you all
Didn't answer the call
That we simply let you fall

Precious moments pass
We pray that scars won't last
Sorry's an empty word
Floats away unheard
But we keep trying
Undeterred

You say that our regret
Can't help you to forget
You say you need to leave
Our words you won't believe
And our love you won't receive

We're sorry...

I pray that in the end
You will comprehend
That you'll start to live
Maybe you'll forgive
Yet, perhaps, not while I live.

Parental Alienation Events & Connections

by Holly J. Mattingly, Ph.D.

Click on the links below for additional information

Families Divided TV – 9pm EDT

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoqET_H81blcf7b55UHxhKQ

- Chris Turner, JD, MSW, BA
Wednesday, July 16, 2025 • 8PM ET
"Trusting and Understanding Agents of the Court: Guardian Ad Litem, Amicus, Therapists, Psychologists, Parenting Facilitators, and Court Appointed Professionals"
- Bill Eddy, LCSW, ESQ
Wednesday, July 23, 2025 • 8PM ET
"Court Trends: The Trouble with Letting the Children Decide"
- Joshua Coleman, PhD
Wednesday, July 30, 2025 • 8PM ET
"Reaching Out to your Alienated or Estranged Child: Do's and Don'ts"

Families Divided Webinars

Bill Eddy

Sunday, July 6, 2025 @ 8 PM EDT

"How Children Absorb their Parents' Emotions in Divorce".

<https://www.youtube.com/@FamiliesDividedTV>

Melanie Gill

Sunday, August 3, 2025 @ 8 PM EDT

"The Destruction of the Sibling Bond when Natural Roles are Replaced with Strategic Ones "

<https://www.youtube.com/@FamiliesDividedTV>

2025 - Parental Alienation Documentary-Participants Requested

I'd like to introduce myself and share my work to raise awareness about the devastating issue of parental alienation. My name is Anson Scoville, and I'm directing a **feature-length documentary** exploring parental alienation from multiple perspectives: impacted parents, adult children, psychological, legal, and societal.

For the past six weeks, we've been filming across the U.S.A. and will continue through mid-June. My goal is to complete the film for distribution by the end of calendar year 2025.

A key component of the documentary includes short online interviews with affected family members. These segments will highlight the global and diverse impact of parental alienation, providing alienated parents and children with a platform to share their experiences. These personal stories will be interwoven with insights from leading experts on parental alienation, including Amy Baker, William Bernet, Alan Blotcky, Elizabeth Ellis, Christine Giancarlo, and others.

: ansonscoville@gmail.com

<https://vocalvideo.com/c/parentalalienationfilm>

2025 - Outdoor Chairity Events - Across the UK from a half marathon, a 5K run, to a bungee jump or an obstacle race.

<https://paawareness.co.uk/upcoming-events-fundraisers/>

2025 - Fridays 11am-12pm cst - TAR Anon – Parental Alienation Group Meetings – Survivors of Toxic Abusive Relationships

The mission of STAR Network is to support men, women, the LGBTQ+ community, tweens & teens, families, parents who are alienated from their children, workers, and caregivers going through or emerging from TAR. With subject matter experts, affiliates, organizations with supportive resources, and our individual donor community our programs will help you out of the fog and into the light.

<https://taranon.org/#meetings>

**July 31, 2025 – Road Show Series of Conferences - Parents Beyond Breakup
Brisbane**

<https://www.parentsbeyondbreakup.com/anzpac>

**August 28, 2025 – Road Show Series of Conferences - Parents Beyond Breakup
Adelaide SA**

<https://www.parentsbeyondbreakup.com/anzpac>

September 6, 2025 – Parental Alienation Awareness Online CPD Accredited Training Course – My Family Matters Ltd

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parental-alienation-awareness-tickets-1041324267917>

September 10, 2025 – Parental Alienation Awareness Online CPD Accredited Training Course – My Family Matters Ltd.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parental-alienation-awareness-tickets-1041324267917>

September 10-12, 2025 – 7th International Parental Alienation Study Group Conference - – Toronto, Canada

<https://www.pasg2025toronto.ca/>

**September 10, 2025 – Road Show Series of Conferences - Parents Beyond Breakup
Auckland NZ**

<https://www.parentsbeyondbreakup.com/anzpac>

September 13, 2025 – Alienated Child Online CPD Accredited Course - Identifying, Exploring and Responding to an Alienated Child – My Family Matters Ltd

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/alienated-child-tickets-1224839761699?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

September 17, 2025 – Alienated Child Online CPD Accredited Course - Identifying, Exploring and Responding to an Alienated Child – My Family Matters Ltd

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/alienated-child-tickets-1224839761699?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

September 18-20, 2025 - AFCC Conference on Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Evaluation, Litigation, and Settlement

<https://www.afccnet.org/2025afccaaml>

- **Opportunity to Support PASG at the AFCC 62nd Annual Conference** - PASG could use your help in staffing an Exhibitor's table at this event to hand out flyers and perhaps respond to general questions about PASG.

Let PASG know if you are planning to attend the conference or if you are just able to help staff our table. As a special thank you for your support, we will treat you to a dinner in The Big Easy! And, even if you are not attending the full conference, you can receive FREE access to work at the PASG exhibitor table. Please contact Mr. Brian Hart if you are able to join
brianhart123@gmail.com

Looking Ahead ...

October 28-30, 2025 – Systemic Family Therapy Conference

Virtual

<https://networks.aamft.org/sftc2025/home>



December 3-6, 2025 - VII International Conference on Shared Parenting (ICSP)

Lisbon, Portugal

<https://lisbon-2025.org/secondannouncement/>

December 3-6, 2025 - VII International Conference on Shared Parenting (ICSP)

Lisbon, Portugal

<https://lisbon-2025.org/secondannouncement/>

In the Know ...

Parental Alienation In Brazil And Comparative Law Between The United States, Portugal And Argentina – Silva & Camargo – May 2025

<https://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol.30-Issue5/Ser-6/G3005065764.pdf>

Scotland - New Bill is Opportunity to Secure Family Group Decision Making in Law – Children First - June 2025

https://www.childrenfirst.org.uk/news/new-bill-is-opportunity-to-secure-family-group-decision-making-in-law/?_gl=1*1fg1v16*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTgyMjloNTY4Ny4xNzUxMTMzNjY1*_ga_B5ZQYQG926*czE3NTEzMzM2NjQkbzEkZzAkDE3NTEzMzM2NjQkajYwJGwwJGgxNzc3NjQ5MDk1

Australia - Parental Alienation - What Is Parental Alienation? Parental Alienation in the Legal System Healing from Parental Alienation The Aftermath of Parental Alienation – Psychology Today

Ireland - Diverging Truths: Transgenderism, Parental Alienation, and the Politics of Denial – O’Sullivan – May 2025

https://changes.ie/diverging-truths-transgenderism-parental-alienation-and-the-politics-of-denial/?fbclid=IwY2xjawLNId9leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETFiM09LV2pQRW1INVVycjISAR472rtHFYey15GSFGrCI_Zdsjl8G6TXqogqvRhNopIzPDwNZZQtD9U_oFiVSBw_aem_H1PakydbkTGitFIWNSJn7w

London - New Research Highlights Prevalence and Impact of Parental Alienating Behaviours – Stewart – May 2025

<https://www.stewartslaw.com/news/new-research-highlights-prevalence-and-impact-of-parental-alienating-behaviours/>

Parental Alienation Awareness Day recognized in Illinois thanks to Ventura

<https://www.illinoisenatedemocrats.com/caucus-news/82-senator-rachel-ventura-news/6210-parental-alienation-awareness-day-recognized-in-illinois-thanks-to-ventura>

Parental Alienation Syndrome: A Systematic Review and Qualitative Synthesis of Contemporary Research Literature Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Kucukkaragoz & Meylani – March 2025

<https://sdgsreview.org/LifestyleJournal/article/view/6146>

Be Informed & Supported ...

Parental Alienation Advocates

12-step support group online offering 16 meetings a week

<https://parentalalienationanonymous.com/>

Shared Parenting Report Card Interactive State Map – National Parents Organization

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/nationalparentsorg/viz/2025SharedParentingReportCardMap/2025Map>

2025 Share Parenting Report - National Parents Organization

<https://www.sharedparenting.org/2025-shared-parenting-report-card>

Scotland – Free Legal Advice - Scottish Child Law Center

<https://sclc.org.uk/>

Romania - Romanian Association for Joint Custody (ARPCC) - A non-governmental organization that educates specialists who assist families in crisis on how to stimulate non-contentious dispute resolution procedures

<https://www.arpcc.ro/>

London – Family Separation Clinic – Specialists in Children’s Post Separation Rejecting Behaviours

<https://www.familyseparationclinic.com/>

Family Law 2025 – Chambers Global Practice Guides – Carruthers, Heeks, & Brooks

<https://hfclaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Chambers-Family-Law-Global-Practice-Guide-2025.pdf>

Support, Advocacy Education, Resources

<https://familyreunionusa.org/>

Japan – Find My Parent

https://findmyparent.org/country_page/japan/#:~:text=Parental%20alienation%20is%20not%20a,only%20sole%20custody%20is%20granted

Overcoming the scars of ACEs and parental alienation - Counselor Toolbox Podcast with DocSnipes

<https://podcasts.apple.com/se/podcast/overcoming-the-scars-of-aces-and-parental-alienation/id1120947649?i=1000700728994&l=en-GB>

New York State - Assembly Bill A3822 - 2025-2026 Legislative Session Enacts the Child Custody Reform Act

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/A3822>

Parental Alienation Study Group

<https://www.pasg.info/>

I'm Her Mother: An Exploration of Parental Alienation and Child Custody

If you would like to share your story, please send an email to: imhermotherpa@gmail.com

<https://open.spotify.com/show/2nonkoLCw2azoxDmX5Q6fO>

Family Court Fraud Warrior Project Takes on Systemic Dishonesty

INFOGRAPHIC: Schools and Children's Relationships with Parents: Understanding Coercion and Forced Alignment – Eeny Meeny Miney Mo Foundation

https://online.fliphtml5.com/utsul/zore/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIPNMhleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHZ-e48f1Du7O73bQP3wz-2zUt8dJdQ-uKdkyORgsb066op9eWOmdXtVi7g_aem_K389AwlrkpL1QSssxzblnQ#p=1

Wales - Both Parents Matter – Support for Separate Families

<https://bpmuk.org/>

Malta – Happy Parenting for Happy Children

Sundays

<https://happyparentingmalta.com/>

South Africa - Fathers 4 Justice

<https://www.f4j.co.za/category/parental-alienation-syndrome-pas/?v=eacb463a8002>

UK – P.A.P.A. - A Cinematic Journey into Understanding Parental Alienation

https://www.papaorg.co.uk/post/a-cinematic-journey-into-understanding-parental-alienation?utm_campaign=A+Cinematic+Journey+into+Understanding+Parental+Alienation.&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter

Hope in Darkness - Domestic Violence by ProxyTM

(A.K.A. Parental Alienation - Domestic Violence and Abuse)

https://www.hopeindarkness.me/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIl32VleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHXwl-PpKoAjzs57nOgWI3-bByTDS8kz_LF5sAxYCyze4RNhMh2QYYocpNQ_aem_hFjFKN6Hwn4_uwvGgSkmg

Empowering You To Overcome Parental Alienation Behaviors

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/empoweringyoutoovercomeparentalalienationbehaviour>

The Anti-Alienation Project

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheAnti-AlienationProject>

Parental Alienation: A Contemporary Guide for Parents, Practitioners, and Policymakers – Book by Professor Ben Hine

<https://www.amazon.com/Parental-Alienation-Contemporary-Practitioners-Policymakers/dp/BoC9KMYD27>

TAR Anon – Survivors of Toxic Abusive Relationships

The mission of STAR Network is to support men, women, the LGBTQ+ community, tweens & teens, families, parents who are alienated from their children, workers, and caregivers going through or emerging from TAR. With subject matter experts, affiliates, organizations with supportive resources, and our individual donor community, our programs will help you out of the fog and into the light.

Fridays 11am-12pm cst

<https://taranon.org/#meetings>

Family Defense Project – Student Group - The purpose of the Family Defense Project (FDP) is to provide holistic legal support and advocacy for low-income parents in dependency court proceedings

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/experiential/pro-bono-program/slps/current-slps-projects/family-defense-project/>

Parental Alienation Support Systems – Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CPTSD)

This free program will provide members with 1 weekly live call, on Zoom, to attend in an encouraging, validating, and supportive group atmosphere lead by CPTSD Foundation staff member, Paul Michael Marinello.

<https://cptsdfoundation.org/parental-alienation/>

Empowering Families Against Parent-Child Trauma, Coerced Attachment and Alienation – Eeny Meeny Miney-Mo Foundation – New Zealand

<https://emmm.org.au/pctcaa>

Family Matters Centre – New Zealand

<https://thefamilymatterscentre.co.nz/parental-alienation/>

The Toby Center for Families in Transition

<https://www.thetobycenter.org/parental-alienation/>

International Association of Victims of Parental Alienation

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/249283921943335/events>

Parental Alienation in the Eyes of Leading Experts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUJveisSXYU>

Complex Post-Trauma Stress Disorders (CPTSD) – Parental Alienation Support Systems (PASS) Program

<https://cptsdfoundation.org/2024/08/05/inside-alienation-introducing-cptsds-pass-program-parental-alienation-support-systems/>

Welcome Back, Pluto: Understanding, Preventing, and Overcoming Parental Alienation - Educational video now available on Amazon – Dr. Richard Warshak

https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B0D9L4TBTH/ref=atv_dp_share_r_em_879c78d749134

Domestic Abuse and Violence International Alliance

<https://endtodv.org/davia/>

Argentina - Defense for Children International

<https://defenceforchildren.org/dci-argentina/>

The Law Center - free online resources for family law self-represented litigants

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC95vbmJ5CxttjmtMNwY19GQ>

The Family Court Custody Bootcamp - low-cost online program for self-represented litigants in child custody court

<https://thelawcenter.net/bootcamp/>

First Documentary on Parental Alienation in Israel

<https://pasfilm.com/>

Parental Alienation Prevention Lobby

<https://parentalalienation.org.il/english/>

Japan Children's Rights Network

https://crnjapan.net/The_Japan_Childrens_Rights_Network/per-pas.html

Judge Anthony – Prepare Like a Lawyer program & Narcissist Silver Bullet program

<https://www.judgeanthony.com/programs>

The Change for Children

<https://www.thechangeforchildren.com/key-documents>

Domestic Violence Services Network – Concord, MA, USA

<https://www.dvsn.org/about-dvsn/>

888-399-6111 ~ Help Line (Toll-Free & Confidential)

Belfast, Northern Ireland Parental Alienation Meet-up Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2153893874686928/>

Canada Against Alienation

<https://www.facebook.com/Sheffanessea/>

Canadian Child Protection from Alienation Foundation

<https://www.facebook.com/parentalalienationfoundationcanada/>

We the Parents (movie) – Exploring the state of family courts through the eyes of parents and experts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTxqEFTBgJM>

Divorce Poison Support Groups

<https://www.warshak.com/resources/support-groups.html>

Bridge – Canadian Support Group connecting rejected (grand)parents and alienated children

<https://bridgealienation.wixsite.com/bridge>

Fix Family Courts – Cutting Edge Child Custody & Parental Rights Strategies

https://www.fixfamilycourts.com/?fbclid=IwZXhobgNhZW0CMTAAAR2skCofehbcROldImhFRBH0Sco7il59qgM2Tn3MfyhDKjXWhOjC_wfLOSM_aem_p2Pm9Q8uewIWSYMrh91E1A

South Africa - Get Up & Grow – Cultivating Resilient Families

<https://getupandgrow.co.za/>

Reversing Parental Alienation

<https://www.reversingparentalalienation.com/>

Parliament of Australia – Parenting Matters

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Family_Law_System/FamilyLaw/Interim_Report/section?id=committees%2Freportjnt%2F024449%2F72730

Children 4 Tomorrow

<https://www.children4tomorrow.org/>

UK - Dad's Consultancy – Family Separation Consulting

<https://dadsconsultancy.co.uk/>

Scotland - LOVE, LOSS & LIVING: Managing the Emotions of Being Separated From Your Child – Shared Parenting Scotland

A free, interactive, 6-week online course with additional in-person training sessions to help you understand and manage the grief of being separated from your child(ren)

<https://lovelossandliving.uk/>

Parental Alienation Advocates – (PA-A)

<https://parentalalienationanonymous.com/contact-us/>

South Africa - Parental Alienation

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1043595825765934/>

UK - Families Need Fathers- Alienation Support Group (online)

https://bothparentsmatter.org.uk/?_gl=1%2A1yoiby1%2A_ga%2AMzE3NDMwNzE2LjE3NDU4Njk5NzY.%2A_ga_ZR5E6225LW%2AMTcoNTg2OTk3Ni4xLjAuMTcoNTg2OTk3Ni4wLjAuMA..

Conscious Co-parenting Institute

<https://consciouscoparentinginstitute.com/>

Parental Alienation is Child Abuse – PaisCA

<https://paisca.com/parental-alienation/>

UK - People Against Parental Alienation -P.A.P.A.

<https://www.papaorg.co.uk/>

Time to Put Kids First

<https://www.timetoputkidsfirst.org/>

Erasing the Family – documentary

<https://erasingfamily.org/get-the-film/>

National Society to Prevent Cruelty to Children – NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/>

New England Association for Family and Systemic Therapy - NEAFast Support Group

<https://www.neafast.org/>

PA Awareness

<https://www.paawareness.com/>

Parental Alienation Podcasts

<https://player.fm/podcasts/Parental-Alienation>

Northern Ireland - My Family Matters Foundation

<https://myfamilymattersfoundation.co.uk/>

Family Disappeared Podcast

<https://podcasts.apple.com/ph/podcast/family-disappeared/id1694971410>

International Support Network of Alienated Families – Group Meetings

<https://isnaf.info/support-group-meetings-2/>

100K Fathers

<https://www.100k-fathers.com/>

iStand Parent Network (ISPN)

<https://www.istandparentnetwork.com/>

Parental Alienation Awareness (PA AWARENESS)

<https://www.paawareness.com/>

Dad's Matter Too

<https://www.youtube.com/@dadsmattertoo>

Broken Ties (available in Hebrew and English)

<https://parentalalienation613.com/>

Parental Alienation Association Ireland for Professionals (secure website not supported)

<http://paai.ie/subpages/home.php>

Child Organization Switzerland (available in German and English)

https://www.kisos.ch/eltern-kind-entfremdung.php#google_vignette

National Association of Parental Alienation Specialists (NAoPAS)

<https://nationalassociationofparentalalienationspecialists.com/resources/>

Slam the Gavel – Podcast with Maryann Petri

<https://open.spotify.com/show/od124wYXht5PLHQT1puOuj>

Red Table Talk - Parental Alienation: When Your Child Turns Against You

<https://www.facebook.com/redtabletalk/videos/773239440462619/>

Canadian Center for Men and Families

<https://menandfamilies.org/alienation/>

Tedx Talks – Parental Alienation with Dr. Jennifer Harman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3YdldNXZnQ>

Canadian Children's Rights Counsel

https://canadiancrc.com/PARENTAL-ALIENATION-CANADA/Parental_Alienation.aspx

Overcoming Parental Alienation

<https://dialogueingrowth.com.au/>

Alienated Children First

<https://alienated.ie/>

Coping Positively with Parental Alienation – video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=446SjN-O92Y>

Parent Time Podcast

<https://www.sharedparenting.org/parent-time>

Canada - Orientation to Parental Alienation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zMMuefcV6s>

Australia Mums, Dads, Grandparents in Distress Helpline

1300 853 437

Continuing Education ...

~ For Parents ~

National Coalition Against Parental Alienation

<https://ncapa.thinkific.com/>

Parental Alienation Training for Parents – (Europe)

<https://parentalalienation.eu/parental-alienation-training-for-targeted-parents/rejection-by-your-child-in-cases-of-parental-alienation/>

International Support Network of Alienated Families – Round Tables

<https://isnaf.info/roundtables/>

PA Grief / Healing Program - The Parental Alienation Grief Program (PAGP) is a support program that helps parents work through the grieving process specific to alienation from their children. The seven-session program includes group discussions, homework and provides 25 coping tools to help guide parents through daily life without the heartache of Parental Alienation consuming their life. This program focuses on the targeted parents' emotional wellbeing and offers a healthy way forward inside their PA circumstances.

Boundaries Roundtable

In this program you will understand why boundaries are critical to your entire well-being. You will identify where you have weak boundaries and create healthy boundaries while learning how to enforce your healthy boundaries. When you have strong healthy boundaries, you will no longer have abusive personalities in your life. Abusive people migrate to people with weak boundaries.

Communications / Negotiation Roundtable

This program was designed to give you the tools necessary to manage your case and interfacing with the multitude of people you will have to deal with. Some of these include Attorneys, Minors Council, GAL, Therapists, Evaluators, Teachers, Administrators, Police, Child Protective Services, Friends, Family and the community at large. You will learn how to identify personalities and their needs so you can effectively communicate with them to achieve your desired results. Learning these skills is imperative to being powerful in managing your PA case.

Reunification Strategies Roundtable

In this group you will learn the things that need to be in place for children to be available to reunify. You have more power than you know. This group talks about what can be done to attract your children back into your life. As a group you create individual action plans to take into your week, arriving back to the following session with your results and discussing any challenges. The group works together to help resolve any challenges. If you have procrastinated reaching out to your alienated child or you just don't know what to do this group will help you move forward with support and compassion. "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take" - Wayne Gretzky.

~ Professional Studies & Continuing Education ~

Post Graduate Certificate and Master's in Parental Alienation Studies - Institute of Family Therapy and Systemic Practice in Malta

<https://ift-malta.com/courses/>

National Association of Parental Alienation Specialists (NAOPAS), PASG, & Center for Human Potential - CEUs on the Five-Factor Model of Parental Alienation

<https://naopas-learning-center.thinkific.com/courses/introduction-to-parental-alienation>

~ For Attorneys and Mental Health Professionals ~

Parental Alienation Theory that the Legal Practitioner Needs to Know – CLEs

<https://parentalalienation101.voomly.com/>

Expert Witness Institute - Webinars

<https://www.ewi.org.uk/Training-and-Events>

Effective Litigation of Family Law Cases: Level 1, 2, & 3

<https://naopas-learning-center.thinkific.com/bundles/effective-litigation-of-parental-alienation-basic-intermediate-advanced>

Registration for the program through PASG offers each attendee a discounted fee for the course, reduced from \$700 to \$425. In order to be eligible for this discount, access this online course here. Then click on “Buy Now” and go to the next screen. Look for “Have a Coupon,” click on it, type PASG and the discount will be applied immediately. If you have problems with the registration process, contact Dr. Bob Evans (drevans@drbobevans.com or 727-786-0600).

Parental Alienation Training for Professionals (Europe)

<https://parentalalienation.eu/training-for-professionals/>

Take Action ...

Parental Alienation Child Abuse NO MORE -Send Messages to Congress

<https://www.petition2congress.com/ctas/every-child-has-fundamental-right-need-loving-relationship-with-b>

Parental Alienation Survey – CPTSD Foundation

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/cptsdfoundation/parentalalienationsurvey>

This survey will be used for research and program development from CPTSD Foundation, on the subject of Parental Alienation.

Research Participants Needed

Ms. Emily Platt is conducting an online research study on certain lived experiences. This project aims to give a greater understanding of people's experiences and how and why they may differ.

This project has been approved by the university's ethics committee and is being supervised by Dr. Olga Fotakopoulou, Dr. Laura Hammond and Dr. Elle Boag.

Seek participants who have:

Experienced Parental Alienation

(<https://bcu.questionpro.eu/t/AB3uo7KZB3vqwp>)

Experienced Physical, Emotional or Sexual Harm During Childhood

(<https://bcu.questionpro.eu/t/AB3u07KZB3vqoY>).

This group should **not** have experienced alienation.

Licensed Social Worker Participants Needed

Ms. Ziebert, a doctoral student at Liberty University is conducting research on clinical social workers perceptions and experiences of parental alienation involved in the family court system. This research may be instrumental in the development of prevention, treatment, and specialized education and training required to bring collaboration among the interdisciplinary professionals involved in working with PA cases.

jziebart@liberty.edu.

https://liberty.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9B6FfUPHnzUiLIO

Sign Petitions -Type Parental Alienation in the Search bar. You can add 2024 for the most recent petitions or you can add US, UK, Europe, Poland, Australia, India, Pakistan, Ireland, Canada, Brazil, etc. Thank you for taking action! <https://www.change.org/>



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About the Parental Alienation Study Group

Parental Alienation Study Group, Inc. (PASG) is an international, not-for-profit corporation. PASG has 937 members—mostly mental health and legal professionals—from 65 countries. The members of PASG are interested in educating the general public, mental health clinicians, forensic practitioners, attorneys, and judges regarding parental alienation. PASG members are also interested in developing and promoting research on the causes, prevention, evaluation, and treatment of parental alienation.

About *Parental Alienation International*

Parental Alienation International (PAI) is published bimonthly by PASG. PAI seeks to lead and promote the scholarly discussion and debate concerning parental alienation practice, research, prevention, education, and advocacy to promote development of informed practice and policy in this field.

Contributor Guidelines

How to contribute: Please send all your contributions to your local editor or to the editors-in-chief.

Format: Submit manuscript as a Word file (.doc, .docx) as an email attachment.

Content: News, case studies, pilot studies, literature reviews, announcements, research, research studies or proposals, advocacy, publicity, promotion, requests for support or funding.

Editorial Policy: Articles may be subject to editing. Authors will be consulted and will be sent their final article for proofing and approval prior to publication.

The editorial team may solicit information and articles for publication and will appropriately consult contributors about the article to be prepared based upon their contribution.

Contributors may submit articles or links to articles that are already published or considered elsewhere. It is the responsibility of contributors to obtain the necessary permission where required to submit their article to *Parental Alienation International* and to appropriately acknowledge prior publication.

PASG retains the final decision of the suitability of articles and which articles are selected for publication in *Parental Alienation International*.

Advertising and Editorial

PASG will maintain differentiation between advertising content and editorial content. *Parental Alienation International* will not publish “advertorial” material.

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