

**Parental alienation – impact on children**

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**306089**

**The not-forgotten child: alienated adult children's experience of parental alienation / BENTLEY, Caitlin; MATTHEWSON, Mandy;**

**In: American Journal of Family Therapy Early View, 2020, pp.1-21**

*Explores the experience of adults who had experienced parental alienation during childhood. Uses semi-structured interviews with ten alienated children about their experience of parental alienation. Identifies seven themes. Finds that participants described experiencing abuse perpetrated by the alienating parent, anxiety, depression, low self-worth, guilt, attachment problems, difficulty in other relationships, and reduced or delayed educational and career attainment that they attributed to their experience of parental alienation. Demonstrates that children's exposure to parental alienation may have lifelong ramifications for their psychological wellbeing.*

**305348**

**Innovative programs in Israel for prevention and responding to parental alienation: education, early identification and timely, effective intervention / MARCUS, Philip;**

**In: Family Court Review 58(2), April 2020, pp.544-559**

*There is substantial research and documentation showing that behavior of a parent which alienates a child against the other parent (PA) and other family members may cause serious, and sometimes permanent, damage to the child. Building on the work that defines maladaptive parental gatekeeping (MG) and PA, and on identifying typologies of behavior, and their effects on the alienated child, the need for prevention of children in these cases is well established. This paper describes programs and responses in Israel, some already in place and others under development, almost all of which require multidisciplinary collaboration between professionals. The programs include: primary prevention; early identification, so as to allow prompt secondary intervention by advice and treatment of parents and child; and immediate tertiary intervention when alienation has led to contact failure or is about to do so. Prevention and early intervention can reduce the need for the massive investment of resources needed for attempts to restore contact, and also for treatment of those affected by PA.*

**Click here to view resource: [10.1111/fcre.12486](https://doi.org/10.1111/fcre.12486)**

**304957**

**Children: parental alienation and the role of Cafcass (England) / JARRETT, Tim;**

**London : House of Commons Library, 2020. 14p**

*This House of Commons Library briefing considers how Cafcass deals with the issue of parental alienation when it arises, which can affect contact and residence cases before the courts. It outlines Cafcass' recognition of parental alienation, and its role of talking to the children involved and to convey to the court their wishes and feelings, making sure that they have not been influenced by a parent. The briefing also looks at Cafcass' Child Impact Assessment Framework (CIAF), which was issued in October 2018 to help identify when parental alienation has occurred.*

**Click here to view resource: [Children: parental alienation and the role of Cafcass \(England\)](#)**

**304786**

**Assessing the narratives of abused and alienated children: important differences in understanding the child's experiences for the purposes of assessment and planning in court proceedings /**

**YOUNG, Helen;**

**In: Seen and Heard Volume 30, Issue 1 - March 2020, pp.40-47**

*There are a number of fundamental differences in the narratives of children who have experienced different forms of abuse - such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, Fabricated Induced Illness (FII), emotional abuse and neglect, acrimonious parental separation, or parental alienation - which can help professionals in understanding the nature of children's experiences. This article is an attempt to capture observations of these narratives into a structure that supports good quality assessment of the presenting issues. The focus of this article is to share these observations with other professionals tasked with assessing and understanding the needs of children within the court arena, and ultimately in supporting child-centred permanency planning*

**304025**

**Reclaiming parent-child relationships: outcomes of family bridges with alienated children / WARSHAK, Richard;**

**In: Journal of Divorce & Remarriage 60(8), 2019, pp.645-667**

*A sample of 83 severely alienated children and adolescents were enrolled with the parents whom they had rejected in a 4-day Family Bridges educational workshop. The program was conducted after court orders had placed the children in the custody of their rejected parent. The parents who participated with the children in the workshop, and the professional workshop leaders, reported large improvements in the children's alienated behavior, changes that reflected statistically significant and large effects. The children's contact refusal with the rejected parent dropped from a pre-workshop rate of 85% to a post-workshop rate of 6%. Depending on the outcome measure, between 75% and 96% of the children overcame their alienation. The parents and children credited the workshop with improving their relationships and teaching them better relationship skills. Despite the children's negative initial expectations, most children felt positively about their workshop experience, regarded the workshop more like education than counseling, and reported that the professionals who led the program treated them with kindness and respect. All the parent participants and two-thirds of the children rated the workshop as excellent or good, but 8% of children retained their initial negative attitudes about the workshop and rated the workshop as poor. In sum, a significant number of intractable and severely alienated children and adolescents who participated in the Family Bridges workshop repaired their damaged relationship with a parent whom they had previously rejected for an average of 3–4 years.*

**Click here to view resource:** <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2018.1529505>

**303883**

**Children's resistance or refusal to spend time with a parent: practice guidance / GREAT BRITAIN. CAF/CASS CYMRU;**

**Cardiff : Cafcass Cymru, 2019. 29p**

*In the context of separated parents in dispute over child-related arrangements, children who resist and/or refuse to spend time with a parent will feature frequently in cases that Cafcass Cymru has involvement in. With this in mind, this practice guidance aims to provide practitioners with the most up to date thinking, research, legislation and legal context in order to ensure that children and their families receive a quality, evidenced based service focussed on achieving the child's best interests. This guidance is to aid and assist thinking around the impact on children who resist or refuse to spend time with a parent and consider how best to approach such cases in the best interests of the child. This guidance is not designed to be prescriptive and should be used as an aid to practice; it contains recommendations for further reading and practical application of organisational procedures. It covers reasons for resistance/refusal, indicators of abuse, pre and post separation parent/child relationships, alienation, and making recommendations in the child's best interest.*

**Click here to view resource:** [Children's resistance or refusal to spend time with a parent](#)

**Are intensive parental alienation treatments effective and safe for children and adolescents?**

**Mercer, Jean.**

**In: Journal of Child Custody: Research, Issues, and Practices. 2019, pp. No Pagination Specified.**

*Strong claims have been made for the possibility of diagnostic discrimination between children who refuse contact with a nonpreferred divorced parent due to parental alienation (PA) created by the preferred parent and those who refuse for other reasons such as abuse. PA proponents have also argued that interventions, which include custody changes, can alter the alienated children's attitudes and create positive behavior toward the nonpreferred parent. This article examines the plausibility of PA diagnostic and treatment claims and relevant empirical evidence. It is concluded that PA advocates have failed to provide empirical support for the safety and effectiveness of their methods and that custody proceedings should take these facts into consideration. Future research directions based on established understanding of child development are suggested.*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2018.1557578>

**301866**

**Exploring parent-child relationships in alienated versus neglected/emotionally abused children using the Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test / BLAGG, Nigel; GODFREY, Eva;**

**In: Child Abuse Review 27(6), November/December 2018, pp.486-496**

*Children subject to parental alienation dynamics often present with psychological splitting and lack the ambivalence towards their parents which can be observed in other groups of children, even those who are emotionally abused and neglected. This paper used the Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test to explore differences between alienated and neglected/emotionally abused children's views and feelings towards their mothers and fathers. Results confirmed that alienated children engaged in splitting, idealising their preferred parent and demonising their target parent without legitimate justification. Conversely, neglected/emotionally abused children presented with greater ambivalence, sending both positive and negative messages to their mothers and fathers; although overall in this study, they displayed a tendency to idealise their parents despite the maltreatment that they had suffered. The results highlight the importance of not taking children's expressed wishes at face value and the need for in-depth multimodal psychological assessments to establish children's ascertainable rather than expressed wishes.*

Click here to view resource: [10.1002/car.2537](https://doi.org/10.1002/car.2537)

**300186**

**The parental alienation syndrome: A family therapy and collaborative systems approach to amelioration / GOTTLIEB, Linda;**

**Springfield, IL: Charles C.Thomas, 2018. 277p**

*In this book, the author attempts to resolve the controversies surrounding Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) by providing substantial empirical evidence from her treatment cases in support of the eight symptoms which child psychiatrist, Richard Gardner, had identified as occurring in the PAS child, and she further exemplifies the commonality of the alienating maneuvers among the alienating parents. The author redefines the typically-held characterization of the parents' relationship as portrayed in the pertinent literature and accepted by most PAS-aware professionals. Numerous case examples are explored: horrific tales of manufactured child abuse; referrals to child protective services (CPS) resulting in suspension of visits between targeted parents and their children; meritless reports to police alleging domestic violence in support of orders of protection which slander and stigmatize targeted parents; exclusionary tactics preventing targeted parents' involvement in their children's medical, educational, social lives and activities; and depletion of targeted parents' resources due to legal fees required to defend himself/herself and to obtain judicial enforcement of parental rights. Ms. Gottlieb methodically documents that PAS is a form of emotional child abuse of the severest kind. The author provides an unprecedented number of treatment summaries, which demonstrate the effectiveness of structural family therapy in treating the PAS family. To further elucidate the subject, the author interviewed several matrimonial attorneys, Law Guardians, and forensic evaluators regarding their experiences with PAS, and she incorporated their thoughts into her recommendations as to how the mental health and judicial communities should resolve this*

*situation in the best interests of the child. "New Rules" are suggested which encourage a collaborative rather than an adversarial approach to child custody. This book will be an excellent resource for parents who are divorcing or are in conflict, for adult-child victims of PAS, for mature children of divorcing parents, for judges, for Law Guardians, for matrimonial attorneys, for therapists, for child protective personnel, for law enforcement----and for the professional rescuer who believes that a child must be saved from a parent.*

**206051**

**Understanding parental alienation, learning to cope, helping to heal/ WOODALL, Karen; WOODALL, Nick. - Springfield, IL: Charles C.Thomas, 2017. - 231p. -ISBN 9780398091750**

*This book is intended for parents who are experiencing parental alienation, as well as for mental health professionals, social workers or legal professionals working with families in divorce. It aims to help the reader understand the unique dynamics of the child's rejection and provides practical advice on preparing for court including how to develop a chronology of events and how to prepare a written submission. Specific guidance is also provided on how to help alienated children heal through reunification.*

**204981**

**Adult report of childhood exposure to parental alienation at different developmental time periods/ VERROCHIO, Maria Christina; BAKER, Amy J. L.; MARCHETTI, Daniela  
In: Journal of Family Therapy, 10 Oct. 2017**

*The purpose of this study was to determine the relationship between exposure to Parental Alienation (PA) at different developmental time periods and psychological maltreatment. Three hundred and sixty-one adults in Chieti, Italy completed an anonymous and confidential paper and pencil survey regarding their childhood exposure to twenty PA behaviours across three developmental time periods as well as a measure of psychological maltreatment by each parent. Results revealed that exposure to PA at each time period was significantly associated with psychological maltreatment. Moreover, the number of time periods of exposure to PA (from 0 to 3) was associated with psychological maltreatment. This was true for PA by mothers and PA by fathers. Implications for policy and practice are discussed. Practitioner points Mental health professionals can use the results of this study to guide their intervention efforts Co-parenting educators can incorporate these results into their routine efforts to help parents be aware of PA and its effects Targeted parents can use these findings to make the case for timely legal and mental health interventions*

**204101**

**Parental alienation or justifiable estrangement? Assessing a child's resistance to a parent in the UK/ WHITCOMBE, Sue**

**In: Seen and Heard Volume 27, Issue 3 September 2017 31-47**

*This article looks at the issue of parental alienation in detail. It describes symptomatic behaviours in the child, normal child behaviours and child abuse, parental and contextual factors, alienating behaviours, estrangement, assessment, case management, and interventions.*

**199931**

**The linkage between parental alienation behaviors and child alienation/ EICHLER, Amy**

**In: Journal of Divorce and Remarriage 57(7), 2016 pp. 475-484**

*One hundred and nine college students completed an anonymous and confidential survey regarding their childhood exposure to parental alienation strategies by each parent as well as their own actions and attitudes toward each parent. Results revealed statistically significant associations between parental alienation behaviors and behaviors of an alienated child, even after controlling for the quality of parenting of the rejected parent. The findings are discussed in light of attachment theory,*

*social learning theory, and family systems theory.*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2016.1220285>

**199661**

**Recommended treatments for “Parental alienation syndrome” (PAS) may cause children foreseeable and lasting psychological harm / DALLAM, Stephanie & SILBERG, Joyanna**

**In: Journal of Child Custody 13(2-3), 2016 pp. 134-143**

*The coercive and punitive “therapies” recommended for children diagnosed with parental alienation constitute an ethical minefield and are especially inappropriate when used on children who have already been traumatized. Forced reunification against a child’s will and without taking into consideration the child’s point of view and emotional well-being, can be expected to reinforce a sense of helplessness and powerlessness in an already vulnerable child. Such “treatment” can be expected to do more harm than good, and rather than helping their well-being, could cause lasting psychological harm, particularly when imposed upon children who claim the parent they are being forced to reunify with is abusive.*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2016.1219974>

**300005**

**Getting through my parents' divorce: A workbook for children coping with divorce, parental alienation, and loyalty conflicts / BAKER, Amy J L; ANDRE, Katherine;**

**Oakland, CA: Instant Help Books, 2015. 114p**

*Is your child stuck in the middle of a high-conflict divorce? In Getting Through My Parents' Divorce, two psychologists and experts in parental alienation offer a fun and engaging workbook to help kids work through stressful or confusing emotions and feel safe and loved—no matter what. This workbook includes a number of helpful suggestions to guide children through a number of possible scenarios, such as what to do if one parent says mean and untrue things about the other parent; what to do if a parent asks them to keep secrets from another parent; or what to do if one parent attempts to replace the other parent with a new spouse.*

**201593**

**An attachment-based model of parental alienation/ CHILDRESS, C. A. Claremont, CA : Oaksong Press, 2015**

*The construct of “parental alienation” has a controversial history. An attachment based model of “parental alienation” brings the controversy to an end. An attachment-based model of “parental alienation” uses established constructs and principles of professional psychology to fully describe the psychological and interpersonal processes that create the symptom features of “parental alienation.” By defining “parental alienation” within standard and established psychological principles and constructs, an attachment-based model identifies a set of specific diagnostic indicators that can reliably identify “parental alienation” while differentiating “parental alienation” from other sources of parent-child conflict. An attachment-based model for the construct of “parental alienation” also identifies specific domains of professional expertise and knowledge necessary for the professionally competent diagnosis and treatment of this special population of children and families. Children deserve a childhood free from the stress of their parents' conflict, and parents deserve to love and be loved by their children. An attachment-based model of “parental alienation” represents an important step in creating a solution to the family tragedy of “parental alienation” in high conflict divorce.*

**195774**

**Contrasting complex with highly complex contact disputes between parents / LOWENSTEIN, Ludwig**

**In: Journal of Divorce & Remarriage 56(7), 2015 pp. 590-594**

*This article discusses the complexity of seeking a solution to problems associated at times with parental alienation. Two scenarios are presented. Both cases involve a child who does not wish to have contact with an absent parent after the separation of the parents due to implacable hostility between them. In the first case, the child had a good relationship with the now absent parent. In the second case the child never had a close relationship with the absent parent. Each case needs to be assessed on its own merits. Conclusions are drawn and recommendations are made as to how to deal with such issues.*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2015.1060820>

**302729**

**Parental bonding and parental alienation as correlates of psychological maltreatment in adults in intact and non-intact families / BAKER, Amy J L; VERROCCHIO, Maria Christina;**

**In: Journal of Child and Family Studies 24(10), October 2015, pp.3047-3057**

*Seven hundred and thirty nine (739) Italian adults completed a survey about (A) the extent to which each parent engaged in parental alienation behaviors (B) the extent to which each parent engaged in psychological maltreatment and (C) a measure of parental bonding for each parent. Associations between these variables were examined for each parent and separately for participants whose parents remained married and those who divorced/separated. Results revealed that across the board, parental alienation was associated with psychological maltreatment over and above the effects of parental bonding. These data are understood in the context of a relationship-specific model of psychological maltreatment in which the child experiences parental acceptance of the self as distinct from parental acceptance of the child's relationship with the other parent.*

**194418**

**Are children susceptible to manipulation?: The best interest of children and their testimony / CLEMENTE, Miguel; PADILLA-RACERO, Dolores;**

**In: Children and Youth Services Review 51; April 2015, pp.101-107**

*In Richard Gardner's proposed parental alienation syndrome, children reject contact with the noncustodial parent due to manipulation from the custodial parent. We investigated whether children are, in fact, easily manipulated, and how. Half of a sample of children ages 6 to 12 witnessed an incident of verbal aggression, while the other half did not. All were asked to report what happened. Half were then subjected to high pressure, stating that the aggressor would be their future teacher. Subjects were furthermore told that the perpetrator was either a good person or a bad person. After these two manipulations they reported again what they had witnessed. The results indicate that children rarely lie, and that although 40% of those who witnessed nothing created a false memory of an aggressive incident, this outcome was not influenced by the degree of pressure or positive or negative manipulation. We found no significant differences based on gender or age. We conclude that Gardner's ideas about parental alienation syndrome, and in particular the ease of parental manipulation of children, were not empirically verified. We recommend that this concept not be used in the legal system*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2015.02.003>

**190135**

**Understanding and working with the alienated child / WOODALL, Karen**

**In: Seen and Heard 24(2), June 2014 pp. 37-48**

*This article looks at how parental alienation can be dealt with. The author argues that deeper assessment, therapeutic support and robust judicial control are almost always necessary in cases of parental alienation, alongside child-focused interventions.*

**189183**

**The chameleon child: children as actors in the high conflict divorce drama / GARBER, Benjamin**

**In: Journal of Child Custody 11(1), 2014 pp. 25-40**

*Contemporary theory asserts that children become triangulated into their parents' conflicts due to alienation, estrangement, and enmeshment. These dynamics account for some children's alliance with one parent and rejection of the other. The present article suggests that the child's innate need to adapt and the caregivers' corresponding needs for confirmation together create an additional dynamic that must be considered as part of any family system evaluation. The "chameleon child" engages in necessary and natural short-term adaptive behaviors at unknown developmental costs. An observational protocol is described with which evaluators can begin to distinguish among these dynamics. Case illustrations are provided.*

**Click here to view resource:** <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2014.892805>

**189939**

**Working with alienated children and families: a clinical guidebook / BAKER, Amy & SAUBER, S Richard**

**New York, NY: Routledge, 2013**

*This edited volume is written by and for mental health professionals who work directly with alienated children and their parents. The chapters are written by leaders in the field, all of whom know how vexing parental alienation can be for mental health professionals. No matter how the professional intersects with families affected by alienation, be it through individual treatment, reunification therapy, a school setting, or support groups, he or she needs to consider how to make proper assessments, how to guard against bias, and when and how to involve the court system, among other challenges. The clinical interventions presented in this book will help professionals answer these questions and help them to help their clients. The authors present a range of clinical options such as parent education, psycho-educational programs for children, and reunification programs for children and parents.*

**300049**

**Differentiating alienated from not alienated children: A pilot study / BAKER, Amy J L; BURKHARD, Barbara; ALBERTSON-KELLY, Jane;**

**In: Journal of Divorce & Remarriage 53(3), 2012, 178-193**

*The subjects of this study were 40 consecutive children in a child therapy and evaluation agency, half of whom were seen for reunification therapy and half for other reasons related to parent-child difficulties in the context of high-conflict divorce. Children completed a 28-item paper-and-pencil questionnaire regarding their thoughts and feelings about their parents to assess the degree to which their statements reflected unjustified alienation from one parent and alignment with the other. Responses to the questionnaires were coded by the first author as reflective of alienation or not. Case files were independently reviewed by agency staff for presence of indicated abuse, and clinicians independently rated the children's resistance to treatment services. Findings revealed that presence of alienation was found in all but one reunification therapy case and in only four of the nonreunification cases. In addition, the children who were coded as exhibiting alienation were rated by their clinicians as significantly more resistant to treatment. Only one alienated child had an indicated abuse or neglect finding in the file, as opposed to five in the not-alienated group. These data highlight the unique configuration of behaviors and attitudes of alienated children and contribute to the knowledge base about how to evaluate and identify them.*

**Click here to view resource:** <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2012.663266>

**300224**

**The life paths and lived experiences of adults who have experienced parental alienation: a retrospective study / GODBOUT, Elisabeth; PARENT, Claudine;**

**In: Journal of Divorce & Remarriage 35(1), 2012, 34-54**

*This qualitative study concerns the life paths and lived experiences of 6 adults who have been alienated from a parent in the past. The results suggest several hypotheses concerning the factors that might place children at risk of being alienated from a parent. The presence of postseparation conflict and, in some cases, domestic violence, as well as the triangulation of the child appear to be elements that favor the emergence of parental alienation. Moreover, this study supports a multifactorial explanation of parental alienation. In the scope of lived experience, respondents associated alienation with difficulties at school, internal and external behavior problems, and a search for identity after reaching adulthood. Finally, overcoming the state of alienation involves issues surrounding the establishment of boundaries with the alienating parent and the rebuilding of a relationship with the alienated parent.*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2012.635967>

**202954**

**The long-term correlates of childhood exposure to parental alienation on adult self-sufficiency and well-being/ BENAMI, Naomi; BAKER, Amy J L**

**In: American Journal of Family Therapy 40(2), 2012 169-183**

*In this retrospective study, we examined several long-term psychological correlates of experiencing parental alienation (PA) as a child, defined as reporting that one parent tried to undermine the child's relationship with the other parent. Differences between those who did and did not endorse having this experience were measured on self-sufficiency and four aspects of well-being: alcohol abuse, depression, attachment, and self-esteem. Results indicated significant associations between perceived exposure to parental alienation as a child and lower self-sufficiency, higher rates of major depressive disorder, lower self-esteem, and insecure attachment styles as adults. This research suggests that there are significant long-term psychological associations in the lives of adults who experienced parental alienation as children, which created observable vulnerabilities that differ from normative divorce situations.*

**204063**

**Complex alienation dynamics and very young children/ LUDOLPH, Pamela; BOW, James**

**In: Journal of Child Custody 9(3), 2012 153-178**

*Infants and preschoolers living in families beset by alienation dynamics are widely thought to resist alienation because of their immature emotional and cognitive abilities. Most writers also agree, however, that these children remain at significant risk for later consolidated alienation if family circumstances are not expeditiously changed. We address the resiliency and risk of very young children in the face of alienation, drawing on the literatures of attachment theory, child development, family systems, cognition, memory, and high conflict divorce. We also explore issues important to a thorough evaluation in these families and make suggestions as to effective treatments.*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2012.715545>

**197779**

**To turn a child against a parent is to turn a child against himself: the direct and indirect effects of exposure to parental alienation strategies on self-esteem and well-being / BAKER, Amy & BEN-AMI, Naomi**

**In: Journal of Divorce & Remarriage 52(7), 2011 pp. 472-489**

*Direct and indirect effects of exposure to 19 parental alienation strategies in 118 adult children of divorce were examined via a confidential and anonymous computer survey. We investigated the nature and prevalence of alienation strategies to which this sample was exposed as well as associations between exposure and self-esteem and self-sufficiency. In turn, we examined and found associations between self-esteem and higher rates of depression and insecure attachment styles and a trend for an association with alcohol abuse. All effects were found even after controlling for*

*histories of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological maltreatment. These findings add to the growing body of evidence regarding the long-term consequences of experiencing parental alienation and indicate that in general, exposure to more alienation behaviors leads to more negative outcomes in children of divorce, which can be seen across the life span.*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2011.609424>

**175408**

**Parental alienation and the dynamics of the enmeshed parent-child dyad: adultification, parentification, and infantilization / GARBER, Benjamin;**

**In: Family Court Review 49(2), April 2011, pp.322-335**

*When caregivers conflict, systemic alliances shift and healthy parent-child roles can be corrupted. The present paper describes three forms of role corruption which can occur within the enmeshed dyad and as the common complement of alienation and estrangement. These include the child who is prematurely promoted to serve as a parent's ally and partner, the child who is inducted into service as the parent's caregiver, and the child whose development is inhibited by a parent who needs to be needed. These dynamics—adultification, parentification and infantilization, respectively—are each illustrated with brief case material. Family law professionals and clinicians alike are encouraged to conceptualize these dynamics as they occur within an imbalanced family system and thereby to craft interventions which intend to re-establish healthy roles. Some such interventions are reviewed and presented as one part of the constellation of services necessary for the triangulated child.*

Click here to view resource: [10.1111/j.1744-1617.2011.01374.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2011.01374.x)

**178685**

**Parental alienation disorder: why label children with a mental diagnosis? / WALKER, Lenore & SHAPIRO, David**

**In: Journal of Child Custody 7(4), 2010 pp. 266-286**

*The proposal to include Parental Alienation Disorder (PAD) in the new proposed Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V) creates a host of problems. The first major problem is the labeling of children with a mental disorder who may simply be reacting with anger to the changes in their lives from the separation and divorce of their parents by rejecting one parent and aligning with the other. Diagnosis may bring with it shame and have a chilling impact on parents report of domestic violence. Although proponents of PAD are aware that it is inappropriate to diagnose children who have been exposed to child abuse and/or domestic violence with PAD, they do not clarify how to make such differential diagnoses. It is suggested that there are insufficient empirical data to differentiate abused and traumatized children from those who are alienated or estranged from the rejected parent. Nor are there sufficient scientific data to account for other child vulnerabilities such as neurological immaturity, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), other anxiety and mood disorders, or oppositional defiant disorder. There are too few comparisons between the risks and benefits of adding a new diagnosis of childhood disorders to justify its inclusion in the DSM-V. Appropriate intervention strategies recommended for PAD children include contact with the rejected parent, which differ widely from trauma victim/survivors who need assurance of safety and healing before contact is re-established. Ethical standards that may be impacted by this new diagnosis and admissibility issues raised by its predecessor, Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), are also discussed by the authors.*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2010.521041>

**171894**

**Attachment theory and parental alienation / LOWENSTEIN, Ludwig**

**In: Journal of Divorce and Remarriage 51(3), 2010 pp. 157-168**

*Following an acrimonious divorce or separation, arguments are frequently presented as to why a child should not be with a nonresident parent. The custodial parent, whether a father or a mother,*

*uses the concept of a child being attached to himself or herself and therefore this should prevent the child from having actual or reasonable contact with the absent parent. This view is based on antagonism between the former partners rather than the importance of the attachment theory being relevant. The attachment theory is also used to discredit the intentions of the noncustodial parent. This is especially the case for the younger child. With older children this is not likely to be as relevant. The history of the development of the attachment theory commencing with Bowlby and Ainsworth is presented, and the counterarguments are also presented. Attachment to the mother is obviously important initially but attachment to the father is equally important to the child and such bonding is likely to lead to positive emotional and behavioral development. It is therefore argued that both fathers and mothers have an important role to play and are, or should be, responsible for the rearing of children. The acrimony between the couple should not be considered as relevant as it is, in fact, the real reason why attachment theory is used against a nonresident parent.*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502551003597808>

**177076**

**Children resisting postseparation contact with a parent: concepts, controversies, and conundrums / FIDLER, Barbara-Jo; BALA, Nicholas;**

**In: Family Court Review 48(1), January 2010, pp.10-47**

*This article provides an overview of the key concepts, themes, issues, and possible mental health and legal interventions related to children's postseparation resistance to having contact with one parent. We maintain that the too often strongly gendered polemic on alienation and abuse is polarizing and needs to be replaced with a more nuanced and balanced discussion that recognizes the complexity of the issues so that the needs of children and families can be better met. This article reviews the historical development of the concept of alienation; discusses the causes, dynamics, and differentiation of various types of parent child contact problems; and summarizes the literature on the impact of alienation on children. These are complex cases. A significant portion of the cases in which alienation is alleged are not in fact alienation cases; for those where alienation is present, interventions will vary depending on the degree of the alienation. More severe alienation cases are unlikely to be responsive to therapeutic or psycho-educational interventions in the absence of either a temporary interruption of contact between the child and the alienating parent or a more permanent custody reversal. We conclude with a summary of recommendations for practice and policy, including the need for early identification and intervention to prevent the development of severe cases, interdisciplinary collaboration and further development and research of interventions.*

Click here to view resource: [10.1111/j.1744-1617.2009.01287.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2009.01287.x)

**204476**

**Finding a tenable middle space, understanding the role of clinical interventions when a child refuses contact with a parent/ WALTERS, Marjorie Gans; FRIEDLANDER, Steven**

**In: Journal of Child Custody 7(4), 2010 287-328**

*This article provides a detailed explanation of the use of clinical interventions, such as the Multi-Modal Family Intervention (MMFI), in situations where a child resists or refuses contact with a parent. Geared toward a multidisciplinary audience of judicial officers, family law attorneys, and mental health practitioners, the authors guide the reader through the conceptual formulations of the ways these interventions can be helpful and then offer three case examples that demonstrate the practical application of the concepts. The authors believe that effective clinical intervention is essential in resolving the resistance/refusal dynamic, and it also enables the child to experience and maintain a tenable space where having relationships with both parents is possible.*

Click here to view resource: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2010.521027>

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**In the name of the child: a developmental approach to understanding and helping children of conflicted and violent divorce / JOHNSTON, Janet; ROSEBY, Vivienne & KUEHNLE, Kathryn (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) New York, NY: Springer Publishing, 2009**

*The fully updated and revised edition of In the Name of the Child examines both the immediate and long-term effects of high-conflict divorce on children. By combining three decades of research with clinical experience, the authors trace the developmental problems affecting very young children through adolescence and adulthood, paying special attention to the impact of family violence and the dynamics of parental alienation.*