



PEOPLE AGAINST PARENTAL ALIENATION



WHAT IS PARENTAL ALIENATION?



Parental alienation occurs when a child refuses to have a relationship with a parent due to manipulation, such as the conveying of exaggerated or false information by the other parent. The situation most often arises in cases of divorce and/or separation and the resulting child custody cases. It can also happen in intact families as well.

Alienation can also occur when a child is very young by a parent who purposely withholds contact by refusing the other parent an opportunity to see the child altogether or by making it extremely difficult as a tactic to frustrate the other parent so much that they are forced to give up or go through the family court.

The perpetrator may leverage a variety of tactics: A father could tell a child that the child's mother hates them and never wants to speak to them, when in reality the mother calls to speak to the child every day. A mother could convince her daughter to report, or even believe that her father physically abused her.

Offenders may blame the other parent for the collapse of the relationship, punish the child for wanting to pursue a relationship with the other parent, or try move away so that maintaining a relationship is extremely difficult. Tactics can be very subtle and hard to spot at first.

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