



Parental Alienation Awareness Association of International Information sheet

Parental Alienation Syndrome – Definition

Revised: December 2014 - Approved

One Page Only

NOTE:

See a separate Information Sheet for the definition of **Parental Alienation**.

There are many definitions by many professionals. You can do an Internet search to see many more definitions. Dr. Richard A. Gardner's definition is not quoted here as the Justice Sheppard definition is 100% based on it.

Last updates included the modified Childress definition.

Childress (2014) (Modified)¹

The presence in the child's symptom display of three specific diagnostic indicators that represents definitive clinical evidence for the presence of pathogenic parenting practices by the allied and supposedly "favoured" parent (or carer) that are directly responsible for the child's symptomatic cut-off of a relationship with the other parent (or parents)

1. Attachment system suppression
2. Personality disorder symptoms
3. Delusional belief system

Stephens (modified)²

A condition that arises as a result of a distinctive form of psychological injury to children in high conflict divorce or other custody matters. It occurs when the child becomes aligned with one parent (or carer) as a result of the unjustified and/or exaggerated denigration of the other parent (or parents).

APS

Parental Alienation Syndrome is a combination of two or more psychological conditions with a life long effect on a person that experienced parental alienation³ as a child. The recognised conditions⁴ involved may be (but are not limited to) delusional symptoms in partner of individual with delusional disorder (better known as shared psychotic disorder or folie a deux), factitious disorder imposed on another, Child affected by parental relationship distress, Parent-child relational problem.

- 1 C.A. Childress, Psy D. Treatment of Attachment-Based "Parental Alienation" (Modifications in *italic*)
- 2 Edward M. Stephens, M.D. (N.U.I. Galway 1967) "Rye Hospital program"
- 3 See APS definition of Parental Alienation
- 4 See DSM 5

Justice Sheppard⁵ (in brief)

The *parental alienation syndrome* (PAS) is a childhood disorder that arises almost exclusively in the context of child-custody disputes. Its primary manifestation is the child's campaign of denigration against a parent, a campaign that has no justification.⁶

Justice Perkins⁷

Children who are subject to the *parental alienation syndrome* (I will call them PAS children) are very powerful in their views of the non-alienating parent. The views are almost exclusively negative, to the point that the parent is demonized and seen as evil....

PAS children feel empowered and are rewarded for attacking the other parents and feel no remorse or shame for doing so.

PAS children have a knee jerk, reflexive response to support the alienator against the targeted parent, often on the basis of minimal evidence or justification. PAS children broaden their attacks to encompass members of the other parent's extended family.

PAS children are recruited by the alienating parent and alienated siblings to the alienating parent's cause.

With PAS children, you cannot be sure who you are listening to – is it the child (or) is it the alienating parent?

Mexican Law⁸

The transformation of the consciousness of a child in order to prevent, hinder or destroy its links with one of their parents.

See also:

Justice Graham⁹

-oOo-

- 5 *R v KC*
- 6 Gardner, R. 2001 Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS): Sixteen Years Later - *last accessed 12-5-2014* www.fact.on.ca/Info/pas/gard01b.htm
- 7 C.S. v. M.S., 2007 CanLII 6240 (ON SC)
- 8 Unofficial translation - FAMILY VIOLENCE Article 323 Septimus.
- 9 P.L.C. v. C.J.P., 2007 CanLII 57080 (ON SC)