



PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS
ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND
Information sheet

Parental Alienation – Effects on the child

Revised: January 2014 - Approved

One Page Only

The tactics of the alienator is tantamount to extreme psychological maltreatment of the child, including spurning, terrorizing, isolating, corrupting or exploiting, and denying emotional responsiveness.

For the child, parental alienation is a serious mental condition, based on a false belief that the alienated parent is a dangerous and unworthy parent.

The severe effects of parental alienation on children are well-documented. Some is mentioned hereunder. Note not all the effects are always present. The alienator, reaction of target parent, support to the child, cultures, morals and more does play a part.

Immediate effects include:

- low self esteem
- self-hatred
- lack of trust
- fears of rejection or abandonment
- depression
- losing capacity to give and accept love
- severe guilt
- loneliness
- grief

Medium term effects – up to early adulthood, included:

- Continuation of some immediate effects
- reality-testing abilities compromised
- affected interpersonal functioning
- conflicted or distant relationships
- learning difficulties
- school adjustment problems
- concentration problems
- tension
- impulse control problems

- peer relationships
- unexplained psychological conditions
- suicidal ideation and self harm
- substance abuse and addiction
- cognitive deficiencies
- impaired sex-role identification
- effects on sibling relationships
- juvenile delinquency
- criminality

Long term effects:

- Continuation of some medium term effects
- Broken relationships
- Also becoming abusing alienator
- High risk of becoming alienated from their own children

Old age effects:

- “I wonder what..”
- loneliness
- rejection
- early dementia

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Drafted from evidence and judgments, among others in:

Frye v. United States, 293 F. 1013 (D.C. Cir. 1923). *superceded by* Fed. R. Evid. 702, *construed in* Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 113 S. Ct. 2786 (1993).

Karen "PP" v. Clyde "OO", 574 N.Y.S. 2d 267 (Fam. Ct. 1991), *aff d sub nom.*, Karen "PP" v. Clyde "OO", 602 N.Y.S. 2d 709 (App. Div. 1993).

In the interest of T.M.W., 333 So. 2d 260 (Ra. Dist. Ct. App. 1989).

In re Rosenfeld and Rosenfeld. 524 N.W.2d 212 (Iowa Ct. App. 1994).

(Hornby) Simms v. Hornsby (Ohio Ct. App. 12th Dist., 1992)

In re Marriage of Wiederholt v. Fisher, 485 N.W.2d 442 (Wis. Ct. App. 1992).

and more ...