



# PARENTAL ALIENATION

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UNFAIRLY USING CHILDREN AS WEAPONS

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# WHAT IS PARENTAL ALIENATION



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Divorce is never easy, particularly when there are children involved. Sometimes there will be a tale of divorced couples who amicably share the care of their children and who are effective in raising children who are psychologically sound and happy. If you are blessed to have a sensible ex-partner, an amicable resolution can be achieved. But there are occasions when the reverse occurs and where one parent alienates a child from the other.

About 80% of the complicated disputes about children in court involve a child or children who are being exposed to parental alienation. Historically, the courts have battled with the issues of parental alienation. In recent years, there has been growing emphasis on hearing and exploring the 'voice' and 'wishes and feelings' of the child when making decisions about their welfare. Courts faced with a

child who conveys opposition to contact should be vigilant to the possibilities parental alienation at play. Unlike South Africa, some countries have gone much further in identifying the problem: in the US, third parties are put in place to help restore relationships where children have been alienated from one parent and in other countries penalisation for parental alienation range from fines to prison sentences.

The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) in the UK started a pilot scheme to bring an end to separated parents poisoning their child against the other parent. Parents who are guilty of manipulating their child in this way may have their child taken away from them and, in the most extreme cases, they may be denied contact. Previously parental alienation has been ignored as a common

product of bitterness about a failed relationship, but it is separate from these normal feelings of hurt.

Parental alienation is in fact an internationally recognised as form of parental psychological abuse and undermines the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the rights of the child. In Mexico and Brazil, it is even classed as a criminal offense.

Indeed, parental alienation can be a very complex issue as many parents truly believe that they are enhancing their child's life by shutting out the other parent. In other cases, both parents feel as though they are victims of alienation. Although the consequence of genuine parental alienation can be distressing, we must be conscious that there are many cases where a child or parent may need to limit contact with the other parent for lawful reasons. Where an ex may have been abusive in the past, it is understandable that the resident parent takes it upon themselves to warn the child not to get too close.

**Parental Alienation is the psychological manipulation of a child into demonstrating unwarranted fear, disrespect or hatred towards a parent and/or other family members.**

Alienation can include: tactics employed include one parent constantly criticizing or belittling the other, stopping the child talking about the other parent, limiting contact, eliminating any presence of the other parent from the life of the child, encouraging the idea that the other parent does not love the child or presenting the impression that the child must decide between parents or be disciplined, by way of threats or by removing affection and attention. Parents explain situations where they feel their children have been brainwashed against them so that any positive recollections of their relationship have been wiped out.

Extreme examples of parental alienation are generally accepted as being a small percentage of the

cases that come before the family court. More common are 'hybrid' or mixed cases which feature a combination of child and adult behaviours and attitudes leading to the child rejecting or resisting one parent.

Parents who attempt to alienate their children from their ex-partners are committing a form of child abuse. The way you treat your children after a relationship has broken up is just as compelling as a public health issue like smoking or drinking. The absence of a law expressly outlawing alienation complicates matters.

Dr Craig Childress, a US psychologist and expert in the field of parental alienation describes parental alienation as a circumstance in which one parent deliberately or subconsciously turns their shared children against the other parent, through various means of manipulation. According to Dr Childress one has to look at the child's behaviour. "It's the child's behaviour that need to be observed.

Unnecessary levels of anxiety or fear of the alienated parent can be a sign." Eventually, children can become so indoctrinated and eager to please who they view as the "powerful parent," they may start hating or abusing the targeted parent themselves. According to Dr Childress, parents who indoctrinate children into alienating the other parent are linked to narcissist borderline pathogenic parenting. The symptoms of narcissism include: grandiosity, entitlement, absence of empathy, haughty, arrogant behaviour and delusional belief systems.

Researcher Amy Baker says that parents who try to alienate their child from the other parent subtly, or not so subtly gives a three-part message to the child. She says:

"I am the only parent who loves you and you need me to feel good about yourself; the other parent is dangerous and unavailable; and pursuing a relationship with the other parent jeopardizes your relationship with me."

Despite recognition in some of our high court judgements, parental alienation is poorly understood and rarely acknowledged in our family justice system. Whilst there is recognition of the long term psychological impact on the child, there is little research into the sense alienated parents make of their lives when being rejected.

In many cases before our courts alienated parents are exposed to false allegations of domestic violence against their ex-spouse or partner, false allegations of physical, emotional, sexual, abuse or neglect against their child. In Family law proceedings in South Africa, a child's best interests are paramount and therefore allegations of abuse generally result in the instant pause of direct contact with the child while fact finding, safeguarding and clinical assessments are undertaken. It goes without saying that parents who are then unable to see their child experience a presumption of guilt and a need to prove their innocence.

The legal process in determining the trust of such allegations is time consuming. The absence of direct and meaningful contact during this period often prolongs the alienation, making meaningful relationships more difficult and unlikely. One of the key determinant factors in the perpetuation of the alienation process is "time since last direct contact" according to Dr Fiona Fidler an Australian psychologist.

The lack of power that alienated parents experience is found in their experiences with, and opinions of our legal system. There is a belief that the legal process is itself powerless, weak or unwilling to enforce the repeatedly broken contact orders which it has sanctioned.

Research presented by Dr Sue Whitcombe to the Annual Conference of the British Psychological Society's Division of Counselling Psychology in London found in a study of 54 parents that have been alienated from their

children that they initially had direct contact with their child when their relationship broke down but that contact broke down at a later date. 94% participants had engaged in family law proceedings in the courts regarding their children and 70% reported that their ex-partner repeatedly broke one or more of the court orders in place. As such, many parents feel that their former partner holds all the power. 78% of these parents had not seen their children for more than a year and 72% of the children had been cut off completely from the alienated parent's extended family.

Dr Whitcombe also found that there was a "lack of knowledge and understanding" about parental alienation and this resonated from her own experience when raising the topic with mental health professionals, practitioner psychologists, colleagues in social care and education. It therefore goes without saying that a failure to recognise an alienation dynamic, and differentiate it from justifiable estrangement leads to

inappropriate therapeutic or judicial intervention, with potentially long term detrimental repercussions for the families and individuals concerned.

According to Dr Childress the only way to deal with a parent who alienates a child from is to obtain the child's protective separation from the borderline alienating parent. Until one obtains this protective separation, efforts to restore the child's authentic affectionate bonding will simply lead to the child's further triangulation into the "spousal" conflict because of the increasing psychological pressure placed on the child by the alienating parent to maintain the child's symptomatic rejection of the other parent, thereby turning the child into a psychological battleground.

Childress uses the image of a "hostage situation" with a psychologically disturbed and highly controlling narcissistic parent, who can unleash an intense anger and rejection toward the child

if the child dares to deviate from the parentally desired responses. He believes that unless one is able to free the child from this hostage situation, one cannot reasonably ask the child to go against the will of the personality disordered “hostage taker” because of the excessive degree of psychological torment the child will be subjected to if the child does show an affectionate bond with the target parent.

Childress also believes that to convince the child to show affectionate bonding towards a targeted parent the alienating parent will increase the psychological pressure on the child to remain symptomatically rejecting the targeted parent. This essentially according to him turns the child into a psychological battleground which will destroy the child. He says further that to begin to restore the child to balanced and normal-range functioning, one must first protect the child from the distorted and pathogenic parenting of the personality disordered alienating

parent. No qualified therapist according to him should attempt “reunification therapy” without first obtaining a protective separation of the child from the distorting pathogenic influence of the narcissistic-borderline personality disordered parent.

Essentially, the situation represents the Judgment of Solomon. Two women came before Solomon, each claiming that a baby was theirs. Solomon ordered the child cut in half, and that half be given to each woman. The child’s true mother intervened and told Solomon not to cut the baby in half, but to instead give the child to the other woman. Solomon recognized this woman to be the child’s true mother since she was willing to give up the child rather than see the child destroyed, and Solomon awarded the child to the true mother.

In attachment-based “parental alienation”, the personality disordered narcissistic borderline alienating parent is entirely willing to psychologically destroy the child

rather than see the child bond with the targeted parent. Any steps to restore the child's normal range and balanced functioning, will increase the psychological pressure on the child to remain symptomatic, and the narcissistic-borderline parent is willing to psychologically destroy the child in the process if it is necessary to prevent the child from forming an affectionate bond with the alienated parent.

The sad reality is that in many instances an alienated parent is unwilling to psychologically destroy the child and placed in a position where such a parent relinquishes the child to the psychologically disturbed, personality disordered parent, the emotionally and psychologically false parent, because the alienated parent is unwilling to "cut the child in half."

Unfortunately, the wisdom of our legal system often falls short in recognizing a child's true psychological and emotional parent, the parent who is relinquishing the child (i.e., is

being rejected and abandoned by the child) because this parent is unwilling to destroy the child in order to possess the child. The time has come for our courts to recognize the false parent, the narcissistically self-absorbed parent who is willing to psychologically and emotionally destroy the child in order to possess the child as a narcissistic object and symbol of his or her narcissistic victory over the other parent.

Regrettably, this level of sophisticated wisdom is far too often lacking from the Court. Childress makes a valid point and believes that the wisdom of our Courts is dependent upon the wisdom provided from mental health in identifying the underlying pathology, and currently our mental health practitioners are woefully inadequate in reliability identifying the pathology associated with attachment-based "parental alienation." According to him the Courts' wisdom is lacking because: "...mental health has failed in

its responsibility to the targeted parent and child. The mental health response to attachment-based “parental alienation” needs to change dramatically before Courts will be able to act with the decisive clarity necessary to solve the tragedy of parental alienation.”

# EFFECTS OF PARENTAL ALIENATION ON CHILDREN



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Parental alienation is a form of child abuse that we are only beginning to recognize. Technically speaking, it's when a child aligns with one parent and rejects its other parent for reasons that are not warranted. According to The Parental Alienation Study Group, at least 3.9 million children are "moderately to severely" alienated from a parent. Put another way, there are three times as many children who are alienated from a parent than there are children with autism.

This is, obviously, a staggering number. But what are the effects of parental alienation on children? This was the question of a study conducted by psychologists Caitlin Bentley and Mandy Matthewson of the University of Tasmania.

In order to pursue this inquiry, they recruited adult participants who had a history of parental alienation.

From there, they conducted semi-structured interviews, asking a series of exploratory questions about the alienation. Their narratives were then analyzed for themes.

The results were striking. Seven themes were identified, revealing the breadth and depth of the effects of alienation well into adulthood. A selective overview of the study's findings is provided below.

## Alienating Behavior and Impact

Adult children reported a multitude of alienating behaviors that damaged their relationship with the Target Parent and their own well-being. This theme broke down into seven sub-themes:

**Abuse and control.** Participants were emotionally and physically abused by the Alienating Parent. For example, they were made to

feel fear or guilt when they didn't comply with the Alienating Parent's view of the Target Parent.

**Denigration of the targeted parent**—to the point where it damaged the child's bond with the Target Parent.

**Adultification**—in which their parent inappropriately disclosed information and sought support during custody disputes.

**Disrupting alienated adult child and targeted parent relationship.** The bond between children and the Target Parent was damaged. Some moved to different states or overseas, making a relationship or even communication with the Target Parent difficult. Others were told that the Target Parent didn't love them.

**Perceptions of the Alienating Parent's characteristics**—including self-absorption, criticalness, and lacking in empathy and insight into how their behavior impacts others—

even when confronted by their child.

**Neglect.** Basic needs and safety were disregarded.

**Alienated adult child experience suppressed.** Participants pushed down their thoughts, emotions, and memories, particularly regarding the Target Parent.

## Mental Health

Adult children reported mental health struggles both as children and adults. This theme consisted of three sub-themes:

**Mental health difficulties.** *All of the participants experienced mental health issues, ranging from anxiety and PTSD to suicidal ideation, which they traced to their Alienating Parent's abuse.*

**Self-esteem.** Participants reported having low self-esteem and low confidence in themselves and their abilities.

**Substance use.** Alienated adult children disclosed using alcohol and drugs, for some at an early age, in order to cope with the abuse.

## Relationship Difficulties

Participants described having difficulties across friendships and romantic relationships. Five sub-themes surfaced:

### **Difficulty relating to peers.**

Participants felt different from and unable to confide their experience of parental alienation with other children.

**Fear of loss.** Most participants expressed fears of losing a relationship, causing them to avoid conflicts in relationships or even entering relationships.

**Difficulty trusting.** Participants had difficulty believing that someone would support them, and thus they hid their difficulties from others.

**Dysfunctional and abusive relationships.** Adult children

often chose partners that were as abusive as their Alienating Parent, sometimes in a desperate effort to feel loved. Others stayed in unhealthy partnerships to avoid divorce at all costs.

**Struggle to maintain healthy relationships.** Participants felt that a lack of positive role models, mental health problems, and poor relationship skills made relationships challenging.

## Learning and Development

Participants believed that the alienation stunted their development and capacity to learn. Two sub-themes emerged:

**Identity.** Being told that the Target Parent was bad, children were conscious of the ways in which they were like the Target Parent and felt shame about it.

**Education and employment.** Most participants had difficulty with learning and focusing on school,

which altered the course of their lives. They felt blocked from fulfilling their academic potential at school because the Alienating Parent's needs came before their own.

## Grief and Loss

Participants felt a pervasive sense of grief and loss, which was tied to their experience of alienation. Five sub-themes were found:

**Anger and emotional pain**—largely for the “injustice” and “the mess” their parents made.

**Feeling they missed out**—on a childhood, including learning basic skills (e.g., cooking) and an early loss of innocence.

**Guilt.** Most participants felt the Alienating Parent made them feel guilty. They also felt guilty about the ways they treated the Target Parent, even though they knew they weren't to blame

**Grieving the loss of the relation-**

**ship with the Targeted Parent.** One participant shared: “Most of my childhood memories are just, ‘Oh God, even up until the age of 40, I just want my dad, I just want my dad.’”

**Disappointment with their relationship with the Target Parent.** Some participants felt the Target Parent had moved forward with a new relationship or family, gave up on them too soon, or was disinterested in them.

## Disconnection and Dysfunction

Participants described “segregated” family lives. Two sub-themes were identified.

**Disconnection.** Participants felt they had abnormal family lives, with isolated childhoods and limited or irregular contact with extended family. Some had cut off contact with the Alienating Parent.

**Intergenerational transmission of**

**trauma.** Participants observed that their parents had dysfunctional relationships with their own parents, and that the dysfunctional behavior had been learned.

## Coping and Healing

Participants shared how they coped with alienation, giving rise to four sub-themes:

**Coping and resilience.** While many participants coped by themselves, others leaned on the Target Parent. Some developed a bond with a caring and protective person.

**Reunification attempts.** Many participants tried to reunite with their Target Parent. For some, this was healing, while others were ambivalent about reconnecting.

**The healing process.** Participants tried to make sense of their pasts, with some seeking therapy. Some found that identifying their experience as parental alienation was healing: “As I got a bit older, I de-

ecided to go see a therapist and that started to put things in place, and break the normalization... You start to realize that what you’ve gone through was abuse.”

## Parental alienation awareness.

Participants felt it was important to raise awareness about parental alienation, and how they might have benefitted from intervention.

# THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PARENTAL ALIENATION AND PARENTAL ALIENATION SYNDROME



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**“Parental Alienation Syndrome”** and **“Parental Alienation”** ~ These two terms have at times been used interchangeably to describe the same phenomena. Child psychiatrist Richard Gardner introduced the term “parental alienation syndrome” in 1985 referring to a psychological disturbance observed in some children who became “obsessed with deprecation and criticism of a parent” they formerly loved for “unjustified and/or exaggerated” reasons

Research into parental alienation syndrome revealed that the most common cause of the phenomena was a child’s exposure to parental alienation behaviors and brain-washing techniques Darnall classified parents who engage in alienating behaviors as either “naïve,” “active,” or “obsessed” Darnall also clarified the difference between the terms parental alienation syndrome

and parental alienation when he wrote:

*“The distinction between the two is that parental alienation focuses on how the alienating parent behaves toward the children and the targeted parent. Parental alienation syndrome symptoms describe the child’s behaviors and attitudes toward the targeted parent after the child has been effectively programmed and severely alienated from the targeted parent”*

Thus, the term **parental alienation** refers to both the **processes** involved with a child being naively, actively, or obsessively alienated (i.e., psychologically manipulated to dislike or reject a loved parent) and the **signs and symptoms** of **parental alienation syndrome** that manifest once the alienation has taken hold of the child’s mind. Parental al-

iation can be identified whenever there is documented evidence that a child has been exposed to one or more parental alienation strategies and/or brainwashing techniques and the exposure is the primary cause for the child to:

**Engage** in a “campaign of denigration against the target parent” [The child often present complaints in a litany, some trivial, many false or irrational]

**Utilize** “frivolous rationalizations” to justify the denigration [The child’s reactions of hatred or disdain are unjustified and disproportionate to the circumstances they describe. They may claim to be fearful, but they do so easily and without typical fear reactions] and

**Manifest** two or more of the following attitudes and behaviors as observed in the child:

**“lack of ambivalence”** [The child manifests all-or-none thinking, idealizing the alienating parent and

devaluing the target parent]

**“reflexive support for the alienating parent”** [The child immediately and automatically takes the alienating parent’s side in a disagreement]

**“borrowed scenarios”** [The child makes rehearsed statements that are identical to those made by the alienating parent. Younger siblings may mimic what they have heard their older sibling say. They usually are unable to elaborate on the details of the events they allege]

**“independent-thinker phenomenon,”** [The child proudly states the decision to reject the target parent is his own, not influenced by the alienating parent]

**“absence of guilt or remorse ... for mistreatment of the target parent,”** [The child may be oppositional, rude, disrespectful, and even violent toward the target parent, and shows little or no remorse for those behaviors]

**“spread of the child’s animosity to the target parent’s extended family”** [Expressed feelings and hatred often include the extended family or friends of the target parent, even when the child has had little or no contact with them]

# TYPES OF PARENTAL ALIENATORS



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Not everyone realizes they are alienating their children from the other parent. Subtle statements like “I cannot buy you that toy because your father has more money than I do, go ask your father” is still manipulating the child to have bad feelings against the other parent.

Parents need to work together for the sake of the children; parents need to understand the child loves both parents. It is not fair of one parent to try and erase the other parent.

Whether you are the naive, active or obsessed alienator, this type of behavior is never acceptable and hurts your child. If you are a target parent, seek help as soon as you can for you and your child. The sooner you seek help and intervention the more likely the child may not fall victim.

## The Naive Alienator

*“Tell your father that he has more money than I do, so let him buy your soccer shoes.”*

Most divorced parents have moments when they are Naive alienators. These parents mean well and recognize the importance of the children having a healthy relationship with the other parent. They rarely have to return to court because of problems with visits or other issues relating to the children. They encourage the relationship between the children and the other parent and their family. Communication between both parents is usually good, though they will have their disagreements, much like they did before the divorce. For the most part, they can work out their differences without bringing the children into it.

Children, whether or not their par-

ents are divorced, know there are times when their parents will argue or disagree about something. They don't like seeing their parents argue and may feel hurt or frightened by what they hear. Somehow, the children manage to cope, either by talking out their feelings to a receptive parent, ignoring the argument or trusting that the skirmish will pass and all will heal. What they see and hear between their parents does not typically damage the children of the naive alienator. They trust their parent's love and protection. The child and the parent have distinct personalities, beliefs and feelings. Neither is threatened by how the other feels towards the targeted parent.

### **The characteristics of Naive Alienators are:**

- Their ability to separate in their minds the children's needs from their own. They recognize the importance for the children to spend time with the other parent so they can build a mutually loving relationship. They avoid

making the other parent a target for their hurt and loss.

- Their ability to feel secure with the children's relationship with their grandparents and their mother or father.
- Their respect for court orders and authority.
- Their ability to let their anger and hurt heal and not interfere with the children's relationship with their mother or father.
- Their ability to be flexible and willing to work with the other parent.
- Their ability to feel guilty when they acted in a way to hurt the children's relationship with their mother or father.
- Their ability to allow the other parent to share in their children's activities.
- Their ability to share medical and school records.

*Naive alienators usually don't need therapy but will benefit from learning about parental alienation because of the insight they will gain about how to keep alienation from escalating into something more severe and damaging for all. These parents know they make mistakes but care enough about their children to make things right. They focus on what is good for the children without regret, blame or martyrdom.*

## **The Active Alienator**

*"I don't want you to tell your father that I earned this extra money. The miser will take it from his child support check that will keep us from going to Disneyland. You remember he's done this before when we wanted to go to Grandma's for Christmas."*

Most parents returning to court over problems with visitation are active alienators. These parents mean well and believe that the children should

have a healthy relationship with the other parent. The problem they have is with controlling their frustration, bitterness or hurt. When something happens to trigger their painful feelings, active alienators lash out in a way to cause or reinforce alienation against the targeted parent. After regaining control, the parent will usually feel guilty or bad about what they did and back off from their alienating tactics. Vacillating between impulsively alienating and then repairing the damage with the children is the trademark of the active alienator. They mean well, but will lose control because the intensity of their feelings overwhelms them.

## **The characteristics of Active Alienators are:**

- Lashing out at the other parent in front of the children. Their problem has more to do with loss of self-control when they are upset than with a sinister motivation.
- After calming down, active alienators realize that they were

wrong. They usually try to repair any damage or hurt to the children. During the making up, such parents can be very comforting and supportive of the child's feelings.

- Like naive alienators, they are able to differentiate between their needs and those of the children by supporting the children's desire to have a relationship with the other parent.
- Like naive alienators, active alienators allow the children to have different feelings and beliefs from their own. During the flare ups of anger, however, the delineation between the child and parent's beliefs can become very blurry until the parent calms down and regains control. For the most part, older children have their own opinions about both parents based upon personal experience rather than what they are told by others. To keep peace, the older child usually learns to keep their opinions to themselves. Younger and more

trusting children become more confused and vulnerable to their parents' manipulations.

*They have the ability to respect the court's authority and, for the most part, comply with court orders. However, they can be very rigid and uncooperative with the other parent. This is usually a passive attempt to strike back at the other parent for some injustice. Active alienators are usually willing to accept professional help when they or the children have a problem that does not go away. They are sincerely concerned about their children's adjustment to the divorce. Harboring old feelings continues to be a struggle, but active alienators continue to hope for a speedy recovery from their pain.*

## The Obsessed Alienator

*“I love my children. If the court can’t protect them from their abusive father, I will. Even though he’s never abused the children, I know it’s a matter of time. The children are frightened of their father. If they don’t want to see him, I’m not going to force them. They are old enough to make up their own minds.”*

The obsessed alienator is a parent, or sometimes a grandparent, with a cause: to align the children to his or her side and together, with the children, campaign to destroy their relationship with the targeted parent. For the campaign to work, the obsessed alienator enmeshes the children’s personalities and beliefs into their own. This is a process that takes time but one that the children, especially the young, are completely helpless to see and combat. It usually begins well before the divorce is final. The obsessed parent is angry, bitter or feels betrayed by the other parent. The initial reasons for the bitterness may actually

be justified. They could have been verbally and physical abused, raped, betrayed by an affair, or financially cheated. The problem occurs when the feelings won’t heal but instead become more intense because of being forced to continue the relationship with a person they despise because of their common parenthood. Just having to see or talk to the other parent is a reminder of the past and triggers the hate. They are trapped with nowhere to go and heal.

### The characteristics of Obsessed Alienators are:

- They are obsessed with destroying the children’s relationship with the targeted parent.
- They having succeeded in enmeshing the children’s personalities and beliefs about the other parent with their own.
- The children will parrot the obsessed alienator rather than express their own feelings from personal experience with the other parent.

- The targeted parent and often the children cannot tell you the reasons for their feelings. Their beliefs sometimes becoming delusional and irrational. No one, especially the court, can convince obsessed alienators that they are wrong. Anyone who tries is the enemy.
- They will often seek support from family members, quasi-political groups or friends that will share in their beliefs that they are victimized by the other parent and the system. The battle becomes “us against them.” The obsessed alienator’s supporters are often seen at the court hearings even though they haven’t been subpoenaed.
- They have an unquenchable anger because they believe that they have been victimized by the targeted parent and whatever they do to protect the children is justified.
- They have a desire for the court to punish the other parent with court orders that would interfere or block the targeted parent from seeing the children. This confirms in the obsessed alienator’s mind that he or she was right all the time.
- The court’s authority does not intimidate them.
- The obsessed alienator believes in a higher cause, protecting the children at all cost.
- The obsessed alienator will probably not want to read what is on these pages because the content just makes them angrier.

*There are no effective treatments for either the obsessed alienator or the children. The courts and mental health professionals are helpless. The only hope for these children is early identification of the symptoms and prevention. After the alienation is entrenched and the children become “true believers” in the parent’s cause, the children are lost to the other parent for years to come. We realize this is a sad statement, but we have yet to find an effective intervention, by anyone, including the courts that can rehabilitate the alienating parent and child.*