

Untangling the Complexity of Parental Alienation

by Laurence Norwin-Allen

The Problem

Family Court Judges and other professionals typically misunderstand Parental Alienation and view it as if it is one “thing” which they term, “Intractable Hostility”. A Court’s Finding of “Intractable Hostility” is nothing more than a statement of failure of the Court to protect the children from “Significant Harm” (as defined by the UK Children Act 1989) (01). It is also a Statement of ignorance which usually leads to a Family Court Judge getting it “Exactly Backwards” (Dr. Steven Miller) (02); **Urgent Mandatory Child Protection Procedures being ignored and not investigated**, the children’s custody being given to the abusive Alienating Parent; and the Targeted Parent, including all their side of the children’s family being removed from the life of the children.

The **Failure to Report** a disclosure, suspicion, **allegation** or evidence of Child Abuse, by ANY adult (**including Judges**), to the appropriate authorities, (the Police do all criminal investigations of Child abuse in UK) is defined as **Negligence**. (UK Children Act 1989) (01). Making a False Allegation of child abuse against the child’s other parent is **always Child Psychological Abuse**, as well as whatever abuse is alleged, as it forces the child into inappropriate invasive questioning by investigators and usually inappropriate invasive examination by medical personnel.

Whenever Alienation is Pure or Severe, the Targeted Parent is always the better Parent as well as the more Mentally Healthy of the two. (Dr. C. A. Childress) (03)

Parental Alienation is NOT one thing.
It is the summation of FOUR Ranges or Spectra of Behaviours.

Some people think that ***every case is different*** – this shows a complete lack of recognition of the **COMMON FACTORS (08)** in the presentation of every case, as well as lack of recognition of the Universal Set (Maths Set Theory) of Strategies used to perpetrate the abuse of the Children and Targeted Parent (This is illustrated by the document entitled “167 Red Flags of Parental Alienation.” 10 or more in the subset, or single case, indicates that Parental Alienation is present. There are now more than 167 known strategies.) (18)

While before 1949 when Parental Alienation was reported from a family court in America it was unrecognised. Only after Dr Gardner recognised the **COMMON FACTORS** of eight manifestations of symptoms in all Alienated Children, but made the **same false inductive argument that it was gendered**, from the few known cases at that time, as Dr Ira Daniel Turkat, (Lawyer) who called the phenomenon, “Divorce Related Malicious Mother Syndrome.” (04)

Only in 2015, when some of Albert Einstein’s letters came up for auction in California was it realised that he had offered his ex wife the money from his Nobel Prize, in 1922, if he could see his children. **Albert Einstein was a Targeted Parent.** Proof that Dr. Gardner was wrong in thinking it was a new phenomenon in 1985.

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Once it could be recognised, enough cases came to light to statistically state that the phenomenon of **Parental Alienation is NOT gender specific**, but not before many *ad hominem* attacks had been made against Gardner and disbelief that Parental Alienation is real reigned, to the serious detriment of millions of children.

Dr Craig Childress reconceptualised Attachment Based Parental Alienation from well established and incontrovertible psychological principles, thus defeating all the naysayers; leaving only the Densans. However the Attachment Based Parental Alienation model, or AB-PA for short, treats *all* alienators as if they are *Obsessive Alienators* with a Personality Disorder. This is clearly not the case.

As a tool to distinguish between *Active Alienators* and *Obsessive Alienators* (*those with a Personality Disorder*), then the AB-PA Extended Diagnostic Sheet will work at 100% efficiency, BUT if applied to all cases of Divorce Conflict it will throw up an amazingly high number of **False Negatives** because the percentage of adults in the population with a relevant Personality Disorder is between 4.5% and 20%. (These people think they are perfect so never self-present for treatment, thus statistics are most difficult to collect.) A **False Negative** result to a Family Court means another family of children have their custody given to the Enmeshed and Abusive Alienator, and the Better Parent is cut out of the children's lives.

The Solution

Firstly, when confronted with an overwhelming amount of information, we classify the information into parts (often called Classes) which are small enough to study separately, just as Carl Linnaeus published in 1735, He split all organisms into three Kingdoms viz., Animals, Vegetables and Minerals as the three highest classes termed Kingdoms. As knowledge grows the definition of each class may change; currently the USA splits all organisms into six Kingdoms, whereas here in the UK we use five. Linnaeus's original classification lingers as a parlour game, "Is it animal, vegetable or mineral."

Secondly, we may be trying to describe a phenomenon which varies or is not constant with time. Such a thing, for example, is Narcissism. Psychologists have invented Diagnostic Instruments (questionnaires) which when answered to a person who is a qualified psychologist will give a score, based on how many traits are present in the person. The ones I have seen consist of 40 questions. Nearly everybody would score a very low score; but to be given a diagnosis of Narcissism you would have to score over Ah! Now that depends on which Country you are in. Between the UK and the USA it varies from 23 to 26 out of 40, and who knows how much the rest of the world is consistent with this inconsistency. Narcissism is not a fixed binary of either Yes or No. Some people are clearly more Narcissistic than others.

Thirdly, wherever we look, we are dealing with a certain amount of uncertainty, or at least blurred edges to whatever we ascribe the boundaries of a concept. This is exactly like a rainbow; most people recognise Seven Colours in a rainbow, whereas in fact there is an infinite variation of frequencies of light-waves within our visible range. Other animals have different visible ranges and so see it differently. We call

this type of range, a **Spectrum**, where you can either think about it in clumps (colours in the rainbow) or as a continuously varying criterion along a line (the varying frequencies of the light waves).

The First Spectrum of Parental Alienation (Severity)

1			
Range	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Other names	Type 1 / Naive	Type 2 / Active	Type 3 / Obsessed
Motives	Anger / Revenge / Emotional Hurt.	Anger / Revenge / Ignorance / Deficient or Abusive Parenting Model from their own Childhood. (e.g. 2 nd generation PA)	Narcissistic / Borderline Personality Disordered individual with Psychotic Delusions. Filicide a possibility.
Brief Description	Self Realisation of behaviour. Immediate retraction. Negligible Damage done to Children	Aware of motives against Targeted Parent. Ignorant of Damage to Children. Short term Severe Alienation of Children.	Psychotic Delusion. (06). Pathological Enmeshment with children. Complete lack of Empathy, lack of Boundaries. Role Reversal Relationship with children. Total Projection of Blame. Filicide a possibility.
Appropriate Professional Response	Never usually appears to professionals.	Parents susceptible to education, respectful of Court & Orders. SPIP, NYAS or other Parenting Education appropriate. Typically, a Type 2 will have an Epiphany during parenting education.	Counter-Intuitive presentation to Professionals. (13) Immediate Criminal Child Protection Response, mandatory as for any Severe Child Abuse. (01) Safeguarding must take priority over any Civil Court Custody issues. (09) (07) Filicide a possibility.
Criminal Aspects	Actus Rheus Negligible. Mens Rea Zero.	Actus Rheus Present. Mens Rea Negligible.	Actus Rheus Present Mens Rea Present

The best heuristic (non diagnostic) description I have seen for this 1st Spectrum is the Three Types of Parental Alienators by Dr. Douglas Darnall, Ph.D. (05)

In the Criminal Court System, BOTH the Actus Rheus and the Mens Rea have to be proved beyond reasonable doubt in order to obtain a conviction. If the UK made Parental Alienation a Criminal Offence, then only about 20% of Alienators could possibly be convicted.

There is a world of difference between Moderate and Severe Alienators; not all Severe Alienators have a Personality Disorder. Dissociative Identity Disorder and Psychopathy have been known to cause Severe Alienation.

The Second Spectrum of Parental Alienation (Purity)

2		
	Hybrid	Pure
	Both Parents with or without Other Adults exhibiting Alienating Behaviours at some level.	One Parent and All other Adults exhibiting normal range parenting with children; and One Parent only or ONE Other Adult singly exhibiting Alienating Behaviour.
ALL children will experience Parental Alienation and having half their family cut out of their lives wherever their Significant Adults are on this Spectrum. (Child Protection Procedures instigated with reference to Spectrum 1.)		
←----- Filicide a possibility. -----→		

The Second Spectrum will depend on how low or high each parent would score on a test, for example, a test for Narcissism as described above. Having two parents with high, but not diagnosable, scores for Narcissism will produce Hybrid Alienation, probably each Type 2. One parent with a low score and the other parent with a score above the diagnosable level will produce Pure Alienation, one parent Type 3 on the other end of the Second Spectrum. Recognition of this Spectrum should direct the Professional Response.

Some parents are so damaged by Domestic Violence especially following years of denigration, and other Narcissistic type Abuse. This sets them up to retaliate in kind, when they haven't previously, with a consequent effect on their children. Time is of the essence, as there is evidence from research that the length of time the children are in this atmosphere is proportional to the damage to the children.

“Delay is the biggest enemy of the lot.” Judge Stephen Wildblood QC. (10)
Support must be given to the Children and the Targeted Parent at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Third Spectrum of Parental Alienation (DV by Proxy)

<u>3</u>		
	Capable of Co-Parenting	Domestic Violence by Proxy
	<i>Both Parents and current partners</i> going to the children's parents' evenings with their children, at their school.	Parental Alienation as a way of getting at ex-partner, using the children as weapons , once there is no direct contact with ex-partner.
	No physical abuse during or after the relationship.	Physical attacks by Flying Monkeys (19) on Targeted Parent by people s/he has never met before. Usually NOT recognised as Domestic Violence or reported as such.
	Police never involved.	Alienating Parent Setting up a false situation so the Police arrest Targeted Parent in front of the children. (Police used as Proxy for Domestic Violence)
	Custodial parent supports career of non-custodial parent, induces pride in achievements of ex-partner, in the children.	Custodial parent takes children to Employer and makes false allegations of abuse on the children against the employee parent, to employer in front of children so they pick up Employer's induced reaction to their other parent.
	Realisation that in-laws, after divorce, are still the children's grandparents, continue amicable relationships.	Relatives are told the same false allegations as used to get custody in the Court. Physical attacks on relatives who try to continue grandparent roles.
	Social Workers rarely involved.	Social Workers are mostly devoid of training and almost always take on board lies as fact. (Lies are designed to be believed, truth is not) (13)
	Custodial parent will update School with any changes in contact details of non-custodial parent. Schools are expected to have both parents' details in case of accident of parent, or urgent needs of child and custodial parent not contactable.	Schools are frequently told that a Targeted Parent has no Parental Rights and are Ignorant enough to believe this, despite Government Guidance for Schools . Schools then collude with Child Psychological Abuse, and abuse against Targeted Parent and child . (14)
	As above until the child is 13 when the child can ask for confidentiality.	Doctors / Dentists make, or are induced to make the same false assumption as Schools.
	Ministers use their pastoral skills to solve minor family problems.	Alienating Parent convinces local Religious Elders that Targeted Parent has (any of the common False Allegations or) offended in some way. This causes the Elders to invoke their own dogma. This is the religion, an authority figure to the children, committing Alienation which is Child Psychological Abuse. (DSM-5 & ISD-10/11) Also "honour" killings . Predictable by how each religion teaches that an Apostate should be treated.
	Well adjusted children of divorced parents, knowing all sides of their families as they grow up.	Filicide a possibility (09) (07)

The Fourth Spectrum of Parental Alienation (Consciousness)

4			
	Conscious	Subconscious	Unconscious
	<p><u>Recent Example of Filicide</u> During the trial, jurors heard that Samira Lupidi stabbed her two children nine times each with a 25cm (10in) kitchen knife before telling staff at the women's refuge: "If I can't have them, he can't have them either."</p>	<p>In the field of psychology, the subconscious refers to that part of consciousness that we are unaware of. It is information that we are not actively aware of in the moment, but that can influence us nonetheless, such as things that are heard, seen or remembered. (11)</p>	<p>The unconscious mind, on the other hand, is a term coined by Freud to refer to a part of the mind that cannot be known by the conscious mind, and includes socially unacceptable ideas, wishes and desires, traumatic memories and painful emotions that have been repressed.(11)</p>
	<p>Judge, "You had formed a delusional belief that you were in danger of being killed and that you were going to be abandoned and that you would not see the children again."</p> <p>"It does not take much imagination to know what happened in that dreadful scene, and the way in which Jasmine died has traumatised their father who has only just learned of it." (12)</p>	<p>According to Gavin De Becker, "instinct" is a result of the subconscious. In his book "The Gift of Fear," he writes about how an individual's subconscious can process information and make them act out of fear, without the individual fully understanding why they are acting that way. (11)</p>	<p>According to Freud, the repressed thoughts and feelings in the unconscious could make a person unwell. He also claims it influences all behaviour and decisions, even though we are unaware of it. (11)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Unresolved Trauma in the Alienator's youth develops into Cluster B Personality Disorders (in Severe Alienators) which have the underlying fears of Inadequacy and Abandonment.</p>		
	<p style="margin: 0;">←----- Filicide a possibility. -----→</p>		

Incidences of Children being killed by an alienating parent seem to be making the news, somewhere in the world, **more than once a month.** As in (12).

Even one of the best, most committed and most knowledgeable Family Court Judges in the UK, Judge Stephen Wildblood QC, treats the Child Psychological Abuse of Parental Alienation as if it is a Custody decision, when he talks of "Changing Residence," and the considerations that have to be included in making the decision to change custody. (10) 19:25 minutes into the video. **Severe Parental Alienation is a Child Protection Issue, NOT a custody issue.** (09) Children Act 1989 S1(1) applies. The same Act states that it is Negligence for any adult to fail to report any allegations, suspicions or evidence Child Abuse to the proper Criminal Authorities, i.e. the Police.

False accusations are child abuse in themselves.

On 14 September 2017 the President of the Family Division, Sir James Munby, issued the following circular in respect of revised Practice Direction 12J which comes into force on **2 October 2017. (15) (16)**

Judge Stephen Wildblood QC, was speaking on the 14th October 2017. (10)

The revised Practice Direction 12J clearly defines Domestic Abuse to include Psychological Abuse and Coercive Behaviour which covers Parental Alienation in Section 3 of the Summary at the beginning of the document. See also **(07) (09)**

February 2017 Anthony Douglas, chief executive of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS), nails the label, "**Parental Alienation**", and defines it as **Child Abuse. (17)**

The French, with their Investigative Legal System automatically refer any accusations to the Police. Any parent making a False Accusation against the other parent is NEVER awarded custody.

In the UK the first parent to a Solicitor claims Domestic Violence as this gives them £8,500.00 of Legal Aid. However there is another Hurdle. If you are earning a low wage part time to support your children, you cannot get Legal Aid. Making a claim of Domestic Violence is the only way of, maybe, getting Legal Aid, there is none otherwise to protect your children.

In the UK the System is set up to promote False Claims of Domestic Violence and False claims of Abuse against the children because they are instinctively used as an excuse to "Run on Stereotypes."

There is No Excuse for colluding with a child abuser, whatever sort of Professional you are. Parental Alienation is a Serious Child Abuse (09) requiring CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES and it is Coercive Controlling Behaviour which is a Serious CRIME (20), NOT Family Law.

How many more children have to die before all professionals, including Judges, WAKE UP?

References:-

(01) The Children Act 1989 UK Table of Contents
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>

(02) Dr. Steven Miller – Why Courts fail to recognise Parental Alienation.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fgRJh26Jho&t=19s>

(03) Dr Craig Childress

Reconceptualizing Parental Alienation: Parental Personality Disorder and the Trans-generational Transmission of Attachment Trauma
C.A. Childress, Psy.D. (2013)

<http://drcachildress.org/asp/admin/getFile.asp?RID=69&TID=6&FN=pdf>
which you can also access from
<http://drcachildress.org/asp/site/parentalalienation/index.asp>

(04) Dr. Ira Daniel Turkat specializes in complex family law.

JOURNAL OF FAMILY VIOLENCE, VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3, p 253-264, 1995 <http://fact.on.ca/Info/pas/turkat95.htm>

(05) Three Types of Parental Alienators. Copyright 1997 by Douglas Darnall, Ph.D.

<http://www.parentalienation.com/articles/types-alienators.html>

(06) See “Delusional Disorder” listed here.

<http://www.health24.com/Mental-Health/Brain/Neurological-conditions/12-types-of-psychosis-20130711>

(07) APSAC Statement that PA is Domestic Violence and that all models of Parental Alienation should be considered.

<https://www.apsac.org/assets/documents/apsac%20position%20paper--revised%202013.pdf>

(08) Eight manifestations of Parental Alienation

<http://www.socialworktoday.com/archive/102708p26.shtml>

and

[#](http://nomoresecretsandlies.blogspot.co.uk/p/eight-primary-manifestations-of.html)
or in more detail from Dr. Linda Kase-Gottlieb

http://www.endparentalienation.weebly.com/uploads/3/1/0/9/31091731/eight_symptoms_of_parental_alienation.pdf

which you can also access from her site, at the bottom of the page;-

<http://endparentalienation.com/>

(09) Childhood Psychological Abuse as Harmful as Sexual or Physical Abuse

<http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2014/10/psychological-abuse.aspx>

(10) Judge Stephen WildBlood QC, Parental Alienation Workshop held in London on 14th October 2017. 21:40 minutes in this video;-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJTMjUTsd1Q&feature=youtu.be>

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(11) Subconscious vs. Unconscious mind

http://www.diffen.com/difference/Subconscious_vs_Unconscious_mind

(12) Mother jailed for killing two daughters at women's refuge (Sentence – Minimum of 24 years for Filicide.)

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/may/17/mother-jailed-for-life-for-killing-two-daughters-at-womens-refuge>

(13) Parental Alienation's long list of counter-intuitives

<https://thealienationexperience.org.uk/2015/07/31/parental-alienations-long-list-of-counter-intuitives/>

(14) Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility

Departmental advice for maintained schools, maintained nursery schools, academies, free schools, local authorities and dioceses. January 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility>

(15) On 14 September 2017 the President of the Family Division, Sir James Munby, issued the following circular

<http://www.familylawweek.co.uk/site.aspx?i=ed180107>

(16) The substituted Practice Direction 12J comes into force on: 2 Oct. 2017.

<https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/presidents-circular-domestic-abuse-pd12j-substituted-pd-20170914.pdf>

(17) Anthony Douglas, chief executive of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS), nails the label, Parental Alienation, and defines it as Child Abuse.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/02/12/divorced-parents-pit-children-against-former-partners-guilty/>

(18) 167 Red Flags or Examples of Parental Alienation

<http://www.brainsyntax.com/Home/MessageDetail/342>

Also saved in my Notes Section of my Personal Face-book Page

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/1015324476453305/>

(19) What are Flying Monkeys?

<http://flyingmonkeysdenied.com/>

(20) The Serious Crimes Act 2015 Section 76

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/9/section/76/enacted>