

Continuing Legal Education on Litigating Parent Alienation (PA)
Start at 9:00 am

- I. Introduction** (5 minutes)
 - a. Presenter: Robert A. Evans, Ph.D.
 - b. Participants
 - c. Topic
 - d. Objectives

- II. Session 1: Definition of PA** (90 minutes)
 - a. Segment 1: Definition of parenting**
 - i. Attachment
 - ii. Failure of compassion
 - iii. Parenting and the law
 - iv. Precursors of parental alienation
 - 1. Visitation blocking (gatekeeping)
 - 2. False allegations of abuse
 - 3. Deterioration of the relationship
 - 4. Exaggerated fear reaction

 - b. Segment 2: Introduction to PA**
 - i. What is Parent Alienation Syndrome?
 - 1. First introduced in 1985
 - 2. Child is preoccupied with deprecation and criticism
 - 3. More than brainwashing
 - ii. What are some reasons it appears to be increasing?
 - 1. Tender years assumption
 - 2. Best-interests-of-the-child presumption
 - 3. shared or joint custody increasing
 - iii. History
 - 1. 1980's
 - 2. Other "syndromes" identified
 - iv. Gatekeeping
 - v. Parent Alienation
 - vi. Deterioration

 - c. Segment 3: Primary Manifestations of PA**
 - i. campaign of denigration
 - ii. weak, frivolous and absurd rationalizations for the deprecation
 - iii. lack of ambivalence
 - iv. "independent thinker" phenomenon
 - v. reflexive support of the alienating parent
 - vi. absence of guilt
 - vii. presence of borrowed scenarios
 - viii. spread of the animosity to the extended family of the target

 - d. Segment 4: Questions and Answer**

- III. Session 2: PA Manifestations in Detail** (50 minutes)
 - a. Segment 1: Characteristics**
 - i. Campaign of Denigration

1. child is obsessed with "hatred" of a parent
2. two components
 - a. alienating parent's indoctrinations
 - b. child's contributions
3. clinical examples
- ii. Weak, Frivolous and Absurd Rationalizations for the Deprecation
 1. irrational and ludicrous justifications for their alienation
 2. clinical examples
- iii. Lack of Ambivalence
 1. there are no mixed feelings or uncertainties
 2. clinical examples
- iv. Independent Thinker Phenomenon
 1. openly deny any contributions from the alienators
 2. clinical examples
- v. Reflexive Support of the Alienating Parent
 1. child forcefully argues their support
 2. clinical examples
- vi. Absence of Guilt
 1. child is guiltless over their cruelty to the targeted parent
 2. clinical examples
- vii. Presence of Borrowed Scenarios
 1. rehearsed quality to the child's arguments
 2. the child's phraseology is not commonly seen for their ages
 3. lots of similarity between child's statement and alienating parent's
 4. clinical examples
- viii. Spread of Animosity to the Extended Family of the Alienated Parent
 1. the child's hatred extends to the targeted parent's family including their parents or the child's grandparents
 2. clinical examples

b. Segment 2: Questions and Answer

IV. Session 3: Child's Underlying Psychodynamics (45 minutes)

a. Segment 1: Child Psychopathology related to PA

- i. Maintaining the Primary Psychological Bond
 1. stronger bond with primary caretaker
 2. children's lack of sophistication
 3. fear of losing primary psychological bond
- ii. Reaction Formation
 1. obsessive hatred is often a thin disguise for deep love
 2. the opposite of love is not hate, but indifference
 3. the child continues to think about the targeted parent
- iii. Identification with the Aggressor
 1. seeking protection from the aggressor
 2. compensation for feeling insecure
- iv. Identification with an Idealized Person
 1. alienating parents may idealize themselves to the child
 2. child is losing their ability to identify with the targeted parent
- v. Release of Hostility: the express of PA can be a release of emotions
- vi. Power
 1. venting rage creates a feeling of power within the child

- 2. need to exercise cautions with accusations of abuse
- vii. Infectiousness of the Energy of Emotions
 - 1. emotions are contagious
 - 2. alienating parents infect, al be it sometimes unknowingly, their negative feelings
- viii. Sexual Rivalry
 - 1. targeted parent's involvement with another adult may cause problems
 - 2. combined with a custody dispute increases the chance of PA

b. Segment 2: Teaching to Hate

- i. Rejecting
- ii. Ignoring
- iii. Isolation
- iv. Terrorizing
- v. Corrupting

c. Segment 3: Questions and Answer

V. Session 4: Levels of Parental Alienation (35 minutes)

a. Segment 1: Three Types of Parental Alienation

- i. Mild Cases of PA
- ii. Moderate Cases of PA
- iii. Severe Cases of PA

VI. Session 4: Behavioral Manifestations of PA (90minutes)

a. Segment 1: Rational

- i. Gardner initially argued that a number of studies purport to document that women are more likely perpetrators of PA than men. In 1999 he published an Addendum I where he stated execution of PA was becoming closer to 50% men and 50% women.
- ii. Literature suggests some of the possible factors that may account for the assumed predominance of females
- iii. In some cases the execution of PA is conscious and in others unconscious Frequently it begins consciously but evolves into a delusion about the other parent

b. Segment 2: Alienating Parent: Specific behaviors

c. Segment 3: Target Parent: Specific behaviors

d. Segment 4: Controversies surrounding PA

e. Segment 5: DSM-5

f. Segment 4: Questions and Answers

VII. Session 5: Litigation strategy (40 minutes)

a. Segment 1: Examining and Cross Examining an Expert or Custody Evaluator re: PA

b. Segment 2: Gathering Evidence

c. Segment 3: Questions and Answers

VIII. Session 3: Controversies Surrounding PA (15 minutes)

IX. Session 4: Case Law involving PA (10 minutes)

END OF PROGRAM