

**Continuing Legal Education & Continuing Education
on
Litigating High Conflict Family Law Cases**

- I. **Introduction** (5 minutes)
 - a. Presenter: Robert A. Evans, Ph.D.
 - b. Over view of objectives
- II. **Parenting** (10 minutes)
 - a. Definition of parenting
 - b. Attachment Theory
 - c. Failures of Compassion
- III. **FL Statute 61.13** (10 minutes)
 - Factors relevant to high conflict including Parental Alienation (PA)
- IV. **Introduction to PA** (30 minutes)
 - a. History
 - b. Gatekeeping
 - c. Components
- V. **Parent Alienation Detail** (90 minutes)
 - a. PA Behaviors
 - b. Access or Visitation Blocking
 - c. False allegations of abuse
 - d. Deterioration of the relationship
 - i. External
 - ii. Internal
 - e. Fear Reaction
 - f. Eight symptoms
 - 1. campaign of denigration
 - 2. weak, frivolous and absurd rationalizations for the deprecation
 - 3. lack of ambivalence
 - 4. "independent thinker" phenomenon
 - 5. reflexive support of the alienating parent
 - 6. absence of guilt
 - 7. presence of borrowed scenarios
 - 8. spread of the animosity to the extended family of the target
 - g. Child's Underlying Psychodynamics
 - h. Three Types/Levels of Parental Alienation
 - i. Mild Cases of PA
 - i. Moderate Cases of PA
 - i. Severe Cases of PA
- VI. **Alienating Parent/Favored Parent (AP/FP) Behavioral Manifestations** (15 minutes)
- VII. **Targeted Parent/Rejected Parent (TP/RP) Behavioral Manifestations** (15 minutes)
- VIII. **Litigation strategy** (30 minutes)
 - a. Gathering Evidence
 - b. Representing the AP/FP
 - c. Representing the TP/RP
 - d. Examining and Cross Examining
- IX. **Controversies surrounding PA** (15 minutes)
- X. **DSM-5** (5 minutes)
- XI. **Case Law** (5 minutes)

-----Break for Lunch for 1 hour-----

Critiquing Child Custody Evaluations

- I. **Review of research on Child Custody Evaluations** (25 minutes)
 - a. What do Attorneys and Judges Want
 - b. What psychologists are doing
- II. **Differences between Therapeutic & Forensic Services** (25 minutes)
- III. **Common Errors** (45 minutes)
- IV. **Bias** (10 minutes)
- V. **Legal Standards in Florida** (25 minutes)
 - a. Activity
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Rules of Evidence
- VI. **Issues Involving Children’s Testimony** (20 minutes)
 - a. Children testifying
 - b. Cues to children’s dysfunctional relationships
 - c. The appearance of alienation
- VII. **Trial Strategies** (20 minutes)
 - a. Planning Your Trial Strategy Around Your Critique (60 minutes)
 - b. Organize your critique (see handout)
 - c. Consult with an expert to affirm your suspicions
 - d. Plan your examination of the evaluator
 - e. Decide how you will use your expert
 - f. Case facts into hypotheticals
- VIII. **Summary, Follow-Up, & Evaluation of Workshop** (15 minutes)