

RICHARD WARSHAK PUBLISHES IMPORTANT NEW ARTICLE ABOUT PA

Members of PASG know that Richard Warshak, Ph.D., is a prolific and creative writer, who has published many peer-reviewed articles, chapters, books, and a DVD about parental alienation. Dr. Warshak currently has an article in press at the journal *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, which is published by the American Psychological Association. The name of the article is "Ten Parental Alienation Fallacies That Compromise Decisions in Court and in Therapy." The abstract of his new article is printed here in *PAI*. You can obtain the entire article by contacting Dr. Warshak at doc@warshak.com.

ABSTRACT. False beliefs about the genesis of parental alienation and about appropriate remedies shape opinions and decisions that fail to meet children's needs. This article examines 10 mistaken assumptions: (a) children never unreasonably reject the parent with whom they spend the most time, (b) children never unreasonably reject mothers, (c) each parent contributes equally to a child's alienation, (d) alienation is a child's transient, short-lived response to the parents' separation, (e) rejecting a parent is a short-term healthy coping mechanism, (f) young children living with an alienating parent need no intervention, (g) alienated adolescents' stated preferences should dominate custody decisions, (h) children who appear to function well outside the family need no intervention, (i) severely alienated children are best treated with traditional therapy techniques while living primarily with their favored parent, and (j) separating children from an alienating parent is traumatic. Reliance on false beliefs compromises investigations and undermines adequate consideration of alternative explanations for the causes of a child's alienation. Most critical, fallacies about parental alienation shortchange children and parents by supporting outcomes that fail to provide effective relief to those who experience this problem.