

*Second International Conference of the
Parental Alienation Study Group*

Stockholm, August 24-25, 2018

**What can experts do in
cases of parental alienation**

Asunción Tejedor
Psychologist and Mediator
Spain

Experts and accreditation

- ❖ Witness vs Experts
- ❖ Evaluator vs therapist
- ❖ Accreditation
- ❖ The goal of forensic evaluation

The expert report

- ❖ Elaboration of the report
- ❖ What the judge needs...
 - ▶ Focus on family issues and problems.
 - ▶ Be credible, well reasoned, clear and considerate.
 - ▶ Be fair, weighted and neutral, avoiding being a lawyer of one of the parents and emphasizing the positive when possible.
 - ▶ Avoid unnecessary psychological jargon.
- ❖ Ratification

Study and advances of PA in Iberoamérica and Spain

- ❖ Working with professionals involved in this cases
- ❖ Contributions of publications and studies
- ❖ Controversy about the name and if it exists...
- ❖ Have found cases all over the world: same problem # solution
- ❖ Shared custody as a solution...
- ❖ México, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, etc...

Study and advances of PA in Iberoamérica and Spain

- ❖ Guidelines of work, programs, ...
- ❖ Manifesto of the AIPJ: we make our words the preamble of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, considering that:
 - “ ... the child, for the full and harmonious development of his personality, must grow within the family, in an environment of happiness, love and understanding”*
- ❖ Necessity of instruments of analysis or knowledge about the term PA.

Parenting coordination

- ❖ According to the Association of Families and Conciliation Courts (AFCC, 2005):
“Parenting coordination is a child-focused alternative dispute resolution process in which a mental health or legal professional with mediation training and experience assists high conflict parents to implement their parenting plan by facilitating the resolution of their disputes in a timely manner, educating parents about children’s needs , and with prior approval of the parties and / or the court, making decisions within the scope of the court order or appointment contract”

Parenting coordination

- ❖ According to the American Psychological Association (APA, 2012):

"The Parenting Coordination as a non-adversarial dispute resolution process that is court ordered or agreed upon by divorced and separated parents who have an ongoing pattern of high conflict and / or litigation about their children."

Parenting coordination: regulations

- ❖ In some US states, the CP intervention is legally regulated, so the CP can be imposed on their court orders. In the rest of the states they can be submitted to a CP by mutual agreement of the interested parties.
- ❖ The first country in Latin America where this figure has been implemented has been Argentina.
- ❖ In Spain, the first reference we have tracked about Parenting Coordination is November 2011 in Catalonia.

Parenting coordination: regulations

- ❖ Highly conflictive or highly controversial families present problems that are extremely difficult to solve through conventional methods of family therapy and / or mediation. What generates great frustration in professionals who should try to respond to the situation created.
- ❖ In 2018 there have been courses of speciality in two Universities and some courts have asked for this kind of professionals.
- ❖ Recently I have given information in Mexico where magistrates and judges were very interested.

Conclusions

- ❖ The case study, the updating of jurisprudential knowledge and the analysis of the resources that have developed in other countries is not only interesting, but necessary for all legal and health professionals so that they have more knowledge, extract their own conclusions and know how to analyze and argue the cases with which they work.
- ❖ We advocate to encourage work and debate spaces that show concern and desire to promote study and research beyond the opinion that politicians and government institutions have about the issues addressed.
- ❖ Controversy, criticism, confusion are only symptoms of the need to insist on the study of what generates them. The history of science has shown us this on countless occasions.

Let's do it together, without censorship, without fear, with courage

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Thank you for your attention
Tack för din uppmärksamhet

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