



# Preparing Your Case and Withstanding Cross Examination

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# Preparing Your Case

1. Baseline relationship
2. Strategies of the alienating parent
3. Sequelae of the alienated child

# Preparing Your Case

## The Chart

1. Spreadsheet
  - a. Date of important event
  - b. Description of important event
  - c. Proof – with specificity and able to be pulled

# Preparing Your Case Baseline

1. What is it
2. Why important
  - a) Estrangement → hybrid → alienation
3. What do we look at to prove this

# Preparing Your Case Strategies

1. What are they
  - a) Great article: Seventeen Strategies of an Alienating Parent
    - a) Derived from Baker, Amy and Fine, Paul, [Educating Divorcing Parents: Taking Them Beyond the High Road](#), 2008.
2. Examples of proof of strategies
  - a) Texts, emails, Facebook
  - b) Witnesses
  - c) Video / audio evidence

# Preparing Your Case

## Symptoms

### 1. What are they

- a) Lorandos, Bernet, and Sauber, Parental Alienation: The Handbook for Mental Health and Legal Professionals, 2013

### 2. Examples of behaviors

1. Campaign of denigration
2. Frivolous rationalizations
3. Lack of ambivalence
4. Independent-thinker phenomenon
5. Reflexive support
6. Absence of guilt
7. Borrowed scenarios
8. Extended family

# Surviving Cross Examination

1. Pay attention to your attorney's objections
  - a. Don't overly volunteer information
  - b. Don't guess where examination is going
  - c. Remember – your attorney can repair damage

# Surviving Cross Examination

## Attack 1 – Angry Parent

1. Will attack to paint target parent as aggressive, violent
  - a) May use text messages, emails, or other communication
    - i. Keep calm
    - ii. Anger at being cut out of child's life is reasonable
    - iii. Your attorney can give you a chance to provide context



# Surviving Cross Examination

## Attack 2 – But I am Cooperating

1. Will give examples of set-ups or cooperation to paint misleading picture
  - a) Goal is to get target parent to concede points of co-parenting and cooperation to develop estrangement case
    - i. Don't concede points - watch for your attorney's objections (speculation, vague, etc.)
    - ii. Provide context (that's not what happened)
    - iii. Ultimately, you may have to concede a document says what it says – your attorney will give you a chance to provide context