

MISINFORMATION REGARDING PARENTAL ALIENATION – 2015c

Article Containing Misinformation

Rebecca M. Thomas & James T. Richardson (2015). Parental alienation syndrome: 30 years on and still junk science. *The Judges' Journal* 54(3):22,24.

Abstract. Despite having been introduced 30 years ago, there remains no credible scientific evidence supporting parental alienation syndrome (PAS, also called parental alienation (PA) and parental alienation disorder (PAD)). The concept has not gained general acceptance in the scientific field, and there remains no test, no data, or any experiment to support claims made concerning PAS. Because of this lack of scientific credibility, many organizations—scientific, medical, and legal—continue to reject its use and acceptance.

Article Refuting Misinformation

William Bernet (2015). Parental alienation: Misinformation versus facts. *The Judges' Journal* 54(3):23,25–27.

Abstract. Several of the most intense controversies involving law and medicine have pertained to child psychology and psychiatry, such as whether practitioners of satanic rituals abuse and murder children, whether recovered memories of adults reliably describe past maltreatment during childhood, whether facilitated communication helps autistic children disclose sexual abuse, and whether children always tell the truth when reporting sexual abuse. One of the most active controversies involving children in a legal context has pertained to parental alienation (PA), which some critics have said does not exist but was invented as a mechanism for abusive fathers to gain control of their children from protective mothers. The author of this essay believes that PA exists and damages thousands of children and families in the U.S. every year. However, attorneys and judges are exposed to much misinformation regarding PA.