

Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

as a retired specialist in psychiatry, neurology, psychosomatic medicine and psychotherapy, I have for many years been concerned with the subject of parental alienation, both in theory and in practice (see also my publications on www.drvoch.de and www.pas-konferenz.de).

Given the “complex situation” of cases of parental alienation (particularly in German-speaking countries), may I refer you, for the sake of simplicity, to my article “Parental alienation (syndrome) – A serious form of psychological child abuse”, recently published in the Austrian peer-reviewed journal “*Neuropsychiatrie*” (2018) 32 (3): 133 – 148. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40211-018-0267-0>. English translation: in: *Mental Health Fam Med* (2018) 14: 725 - 739, <http://mhfmjournal.com/pdf/MHFM-117.pdf> (double blinded peer-reviewed) Another (peer-reviewed) article written in English is a review of the well-known “Parental Alienation – Handbook for Mental Health and Legal Professionals”, C. C. Publ., Springfield, IL., USA, 2013, by D. Lorandos, W. Bernet & S. R. Sauber, which I would like to recommend to you. (in: *EC PAEDIATRICALS* (2018) 7.8: 820 - 822. (<https://www.econicon.com/ecpe/pdf/ECPE-07-00320.pdf>). This article was updated and published in German language in *Neuropsychiatrie* (2019), 33 (1): A13 - A14.

Some other scientific works about interventions in severe Parental Alienation-cases:

Warshak, R. A. (2015 a) Ten parental alienation fallacies that compromise decisions in court and in therapy. *Professional Psychology, Research and Practise* 46 (4): 235 - 49.

Warshak, R. A. (2015 b) Parental Alienation: overview, management intervention and practice tips. *Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers* 28: 181 - 248.

Warshak, R. A. (2018, October). Reclaiming Parent-Child Relationships: Outcomes of Family Bridges with Alienated Children. *American Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2018.1529505>; <https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/XgUai2nnTyNhmmHT8JSd/full>

Templer, K., Matthewson, M., Haines, K. & Cox G. (2017). Recommendations for best practice in response to parental alienation: findings from a systematic review. *Journal of Fam. Therapy* 39 (1) 103 - 122, <https://doi/abs/10.1111/1467-6427.12137>

Reay, K. (2015): Family reflections: a promising therapeutic program designed to treat severely alienated children and their family system. *American Journal of Fam. Therapy*, 43 (2): 197 – 207.

Gottlieb, L. J. (2013) The application of structural family therapy to the treatment of parental alienation syndrome. In: Baker AJL, Sauber SR (Eds.) *Working with alienated children and families - a clinical guidebook*. New York: Routledge, p. 209 - 31.

Matic, A. E. & Mirić, S. C. (2016): Specific Deontological/Ethical regulations concerning the involvement, duties and the active role of certain categories of civil servants regarding the protection of family relationship against Parental Alienation Syndrome. *Perspectives of Business Law Journal*, 5 (1): 94 - 100.

Kruk, E. (2018). Parental Alienation as a Form of Emotional child Abuse: The Current state of Knowledge and Directions for Future Research, *Family Science Review*, 22 (4): 141 - 164

Harman, J. J., Kruk, E. & Hines, D. A. (2018) Parental Alienating Behaviors: An Unacknowledged Form of Family Violence, *Psychological Bulletin*, Vol. 144, No. 12., 1275 - 1299, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/bul0000175>

Krill-Reiter, L. E. (2019). Parental Alienation as a Predictor of Adult Marital and Romantic Relationship Quality, *Walden Dissertations and Doctoral Studies Collection*.

Lorandos, D. and Bernet, W. (Eds.) (in preparation, 2019) *Parental Alienation - Science & Law*, Springfield, IL. , Charles C. Thomas Publ.

Gebhardt, G.: *Sarah Cecilie*, 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qgj3WXYHyo>. You can view all versions of this film made by Action Against Abduction (website at <https://www.youtube.com/user/PACTonline>.)

The term “parental alienation” does not yet feature as such in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5) of the American Psychiatric Association (APA). But the internationally used “**International Classification of Diseases**” (ICD 11) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) refers to “parental alienation” since 18 June 2018. (Code QE 52.0, under **caregiver-child relation problem**: (<https://icd.who.int/dev11/l-m/en#/http://id.who.int/icd/entity/547677013>))

The website www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/pasg of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine at Nashville, TN in the US today lists around 1,300 publications of scientific relevance from about 50 countries worldwide on the subjects parental alienation, parental alienation syndrome and related subjects.

International developments

Parental Alienation is an international phenomenon, which empirical studies have shown to exist in various countries (Dum, 2013 a, p. 425 - 467), and which is reflected in more than 600 court rulings, for instance, in the United States and Canada (Bernet, 2010), (Lorandos, 2013), in the Brazilian law on Parental Alienation/Law 12318 of 2010 (Brockhausen, 2013), in the laws of some other South American countries (Dum, 2013 a, p. 425 - 467) and in rulings by the Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) for instance, Sommerfeld v. Germany (2003); Koudelka and Zavrel v. Czech Republic (2006 and 2007); Plasse-Bauer v. France (2006); Minecheva v. Bulgaria (2010); Bordeiana v. Moldava (2011) and others, (Dum, 2013 b, p. 439 - 444); and recently: K. B. and others v. Croatia (2017) (<https://strasbourgobservers.com/2017/04/25/k-b-and-others-v-croatia-the-courts-first-steps-to-tackle-parental-alienation/>); Aneva and others v. Bulgaria (2017): <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-176982>; and Case of R. I. and others v. Romania (2018) <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-187931>

In France by the national court of appeal Cour de Cassation (No. 660 of 26th June 2013; 12-14.392) (https://www.courdecassation.fr/jurisprudence_2/premiere_chambre_civile_568/660_26_26933.html), and in rulings by the higher regional courts of several European countries, for instance, England, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland and others (Bernet, 2010).

In German-speaking countries, there are still not many therapists who are familiar with the subject “Parental Alienation” and have completed suitable (further) training.

In addition, the German Constitutional Court decided in its ruling of 17 September 2016 (1BvR/1547/16 in *FamRZ* 2016, 1917) that the – **albeit manipulated** – will expressed by a 12-year old child of divorce to stop going to the non-custodial parent’s house must be respected at all cost, as the child’s personality rights would otherwise be infringed.

This goes against current published international scientific findings on Parental Alienation (such as by Warshak, 2015 a, b; Matic & Mirica, 2016; Kruk, 2018; Harman, Kruk & Hines, 2018; Lorandos & Bernet, 2019; and others).

In the United Kingdom (f. i. in London), however, a clinic run by Karen and Nick Woodall (<https://www.familyseparationclinic.com>) and in cooperation with the “Child and Youth Protection Center” in Zagreb, Croatia undertakes serious and competent work in the complex field “parental alienation following separation or divorce” (see also their book “Understanding Parental Alienation, learning to cope, helping to heal”, Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, IL., USA, 2017).

In the United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa and Spain, some similar programmes of intervention are used and evaluated in cases of parental alienation (see also my article “Parental alienation (syndrome) – A serious form of psychological child abuse” in *Neuropsychiatrie*, 2018, 32 (3): 133 – 148).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40211-018-0267-0> (German language) and in *Mental Health Fam. Med.* (2018) 14: 725 - 739; <http://mhfmjournal.com/pdf/MHFM-117.pdf> (English language)

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