

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

as a specialist in psychiatry, neurology, psychosomatic medicine and psychotherapy from Europe/Germany, 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.pas-konferenz.de](http://www.pas-konferenz.de)).

Given the “difficult 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. Thomas Publ., Springfield, IL., USA, 2013, by D. Lorandos, W. Bernet & S. R. Sauber, which I would like to recommend to you. (in: *EC PAEDIATRICES* (2018) 7.8: 820 - 822.

(<https://www.ecronicon.com/ecpe/pdf/ECPE-07-00320.pdf>). This article was updated and published in German language in *Neuropsychiatrie* (2019), 33 (1): A13 - A14 and in English language in *Journal of Family Medicine and Disease Prevention* (2019) 5 (6): 115 - 117, <https://www.clinmedjournals.org/articles/jfmdp/journal-of-family-medicine-and-disease-prevention-jfmdp-5-115.php?jid=jfmdp>.

A special case of severe “Parental Alienation” and its consequences was published in *International Journal for Case Reports* (2019), Vol. 3, No. 1: 4, <http://www.imedpub.com/articles/international-classification-of-diseasesparental-alienation.pdf>

#### **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>

Warshak, R. A. (2019, October). When Evaluators Get It Wrong: False Positive IDs and Parental Alienation. *Psychology, public Policy, and Law*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/law0000216>

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. & Mirică, 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>

Poustie, C., Matthewson, M. & Balmer, S. (2018). The Forgotten Parent : The Targeted Parent Perspective of Parental Alienation, *Journal of Family Issues*, 1 - 26, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X18777867>

Woodall, N. & Woodall, K. (2019). *Working with post-separation pathological splitting in children*. London: Family Separation Clinic.

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

Harman, J. J., Bernet, W. & Harman J. (2019) Parental Alienation: The Blossoming of a Field of Study, *aps* (Association for psychological science), *Current Directions in psychological science*, 1 - 6, [sagepub.com/journals-permissions, https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721419827271](https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721419827271)

Lorandos, D. and Bernet, W. (Eds.) (in preparation, 2020) 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>.)

A very important film about Parental Alienation (Syndrome) from Alexander Dierbach (in German language) with the title "Weil Du mir gehörst" ["Because you belong to me"] was shown at the film festival in Munich (27<sup>th</sup> June - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019; . <https://www.filmfest-muenchen.de/de/programm/filme/film/?id=6089>) and at the film festival in Ludwigshafen on September 5, 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> 2019. It shows the whole tragedy of Parental Alienation in thousands of similar family cases in Germany and millions worldwide (Harman et al. 2018).

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** as index factor. This was confirmed by the seventy-second World Health Assembly on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (<https://icd.who.int/dev11/l-m/en#/http://id.who.int/icd/entity/547677013>). **This is absolutely necessary in order to stop the meanwhile endemic and worldwide problem of Parental Alienation** as a form of "**psychological child abuse (ICD-10, Code T74.3 and DSM-5, Code V995.51)**". (Kruk, 2018; Harman et al., 2018). Parental Alienation is a custody issue but also a child protection issue. The supervisory bodies of the child welfare office and the family court should in these cases be required to act accordingly (Harman et al., 2018).

**A Study published in 2014 by the American Psychological Association** (Joseph Spinazzola et al., 2014) "Unseen wounds: The Contribution of Psychological Maltreatment to Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Risk Outcomes" shows that children who are emotionally abused face similar and sometimes worse mental health problems as children who are physically or sexually abused, yet psychological abuse is rarely addressed in prevention or treating problems for victims. (<https://www.apa.org/education/ce/1360375> )

From Sept. 12 - 14, 2019 the **Third International conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group**, took place in Philadelphia, PA., USA (see: [www.pasg2019.com](http://www.pasg2019.com); [www.pasg.info](http://www.pasg.info)). During this conference it was possible to hear from the leaders in the field how to understand, prevent and manage Parental Alienation.

Dr. Miller, a Harvard trained specialist in the field of Parental Alienation, explains in a 5-minutes-video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fgRJh26Jho>, the heavy mistakes professionals dealing with severe Parental Alienation cases can make.

The website [www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/pasg](http://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, in: Lorandos, Bernet & Sauber, 2013, *ibid.* p. 425 - 467), and which is reflected in more than 1000 court rulings, for instance, in the United States and Canada (Bernet, 2010), (Lorandos, 2013, *ibid.*), in the Brazilian law on Parental Alienation/Law 12318 of 2010 (Brockhausen, 2013, *ibid.*), in the laws of some other South American countries (Dum, 2013 a, *ibid.*, 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. Moldova (2011) and others, (Dum, 2013 b, *ibid.*, 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>; Case of R. I. and others v. Romania (2018) <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-187931> and Case of Pisciă v. Moldavia (2019): [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"itemid":\["001-197214"\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{).

In France by the national court of appeal Cour de Cassation (No. 660 of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013; 12-14.392) [https://www.courdecassation.fr/jurisprudence\\_2/premiere\\_chambre\\_civile\\_568/660\\_26\\_26933.html](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 enough therapists who are familiar with the subject “Parental Alienation” and have completed suitable (further) training.

In view of the recently published international scientific findings on Parental Alienation (such f. i. by Warshak, 2015 a, b, 2018, 2019; Matic & Mirica, 2016; Templer, Matthewson, Haines & Cox, 2017; Kruk, 2018; Harman, Kruk & Hines, 2018; Lorandos & Bernet, 2020 (in preparation)); and others, this will hopefully change soon, since code QE 52.0 is finally implemented in ICD 11.

In the United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa, England, Israel, Croatia, Spain, and in few instances in Germany programs of intervention are used and successfully 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)

Best regards

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