

Contemporary Family

GLOBAL RESOURCES FOR EFFECTIVE COPARENTING
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**"IT IS OUR INTENT TO DO
WHATEVER
WE CAN TO MAKE
SURE THAT
THE CRUELTY
OF THE PAST IS
NOT
REPEATED
IN THE FUTURE"**

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Preserving Family Ties Media has the mission to provide research, news, education, consulting and training, and multimedia publishing opportunities for parents and family professionals to improve child outcomes when families are in transition.

Preserving Family Ties (PFT) is named for founder, Dr. Mark D. Roseman's research-based book, *Preserving Family Ties, An Authoritative Guide to Understanding Divorce and Child Custody, for Parents and Family Professionals*. His approach has been to incorporate the latest understanding of dynamics, feelings and behaviors when parents separate and how best to co-parent when separation and divorce ensues. Cultural context and court reform in historical context further distinguishes Roseman's text.

PFT is the parent company for its flagship, *Contemporary Family Magazine* (www.contemporaryfamilymagazine.com) offering a venue for global writers and researchers on interdisciplinary topics addressing current family needs in order to foster universal understandings and interventions.

Additionally, PFT is the parent company for Mark David Roseman & Associates (MDR), a service enterprise specializing in support groups for parents suffering highly conflicted child custody matters, and experiencing the traumatic loss of children through their estrangement and alienating behaviors. MDR's facilitators serve as consultants for individual coaching, and also assistance to companies' human resources challenges with managing staff who are facing personal difficulties of divorce and child custody litigation.

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Guest Editorial

PA: Progress Made and Progress Ahead

I have been involved with the devastating problem of Parental Alienation (PA) long enough to have a personal sense of the progress we have made and the progress still needed. Much has happened in the field of Parental Alienation since 1985 when Richard Gardner, MD published his first paper describing Parental Alienation Syndrome. A recently compiled bibliography of sources addressing some aspect of PA required over 90 single spaced pages, and today I am sure the list would be even longer. The research has been robust both qualitatively and qualitatively, in spite of the misinformation that is still sometimes found on the internet and in the courtroom, to the contrary. The fact is, quantitative research that captures the phenomenon of parental alienation is difficult to design since it involves family dynamics, which does not lend itself easily to the double-blind peer reviewed “gold” standard that is used in evidence based medical research. This “poorness off fit” has been used as a criticism of research into PA, when it is more accurate to state that the multi person dynamic of the phenomenon cannot be completely captured with only quantitative research. As with the gold standard of medical research, “evidence based” does not require only quantitative research, but only the best research available. Even with these limitations, quantitative research has been produced which confirms the earliest perceptions of Dr Gardner. When Amy Baker performed her research on adults who had experienced PA as children, I had the opportunity to review the pre-publication manuscript. After review, I called Dr Baker and asked her if my impression was correct that her findings tended to support Gardner’s description. She immediately corrected me and said that her findings did not “tend” to support his model, but that they supported them absolutely. Since then questionnaires have been developed that identify various aspects of the parental alienation dynamic. Peer reviewed, evidence based journal articles

regarding the successful treatment of severely alienated children have been published.

Yet even with this progress in terms of great research, there persists an adverse opinion - not supported by research or evidence based data - that PA either (a) does not exist or (b) that it is unreliable or “junk” science. This persistent dragging anchor of misinformation is both puzzling and alarming and is ideologically based. It persists in spite of the legitimate research that has confirmed, described and explained how children become alienated, how easily they can be induced to believe horrible things that never actually happened, and can then become delusional into thinking that they did. Research has shown how suggestible adults and especially children are and how easily these consequent distortions of perception can occur. Research has shown how memory is easily distorted and how false memories are created. Research has shown the high incidence of severely alienating parents with significant personality disorders.

Yet, in spite of all of this, there persists an alienating core of “disbelievers.” But it is more than this group just being disbelievers. This group feels a need to disparage, to vilify and to attack. I had the honor of performing an evaluation with Dr Gardner years ago. After the court proceeding was finished, he asked my opinion about why he had become the target of such unfounded accusations that he had. I told him that I felt that he had become the quintessential targeted or unfavored parent of parental alienation by exposing the truth. Those of us who have worked in this field have felt this irrational wrath. Yet the work goes on as does the research.

One area that has received attention of late is that of finally seeing parental alienation as a severe form of child abuse. While the American Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM 5) did not include



the label of Parental Alienation per se, there were five new diagnoses that essentially describe the various moving parts seen in Parental Alienation. Most notably, the diagnosis of Child Psychological Abuse is presented and discussed as describing what happens to children when they are the victims of Parental Alienation. The definition is quite specific and very much on target with Parental Alienation. There is also increased awareness of the significance of this emotional abuse. In fact, it is often discussed as being as damaging or even being more damaging than is the case with physical or even of sexual abuse. In the case of these latter two categories, there are specific physical events that harm children such that when they pass from being its victims to being its survivor, the physical event serves as a focal point that can be reframed in the healing process. However, in the case of Parental Alienation, the victim typically has no such physical event to reframe and put into perspective. Rather, the victim of Parental Alienation must wrestle with the dilemma of being a co-conspirator with the alienating parent. This enmeshment of being both a victim and a victimizer is more difficult to resolve - sometimes described as trying to grab a cloud - and runs the risk of leaving life long scars on that child as they move into adulthood. Much more in the way of research is needed in this area and now that there is more general world wide understanding and awareness of PA, such research may move forward.

Michael Bone PhD. has 25 years experience with cases involving Parental Alienation working with high conflict divorce as a therapist, expert witness, mediator, evaluator and consultant, both nationally and internationally. Dr Bone began his career as a mental health professional, helping people of all genres in all areas of their lives and especially divorce. He found that most divorces move through normal court proceedings without much delay and divorces are ready to move on and begin rebuilding their lives rather quickly without conflict. **Contact: Michael@jmicahbone.com Tel. (407)645.0662**

Helplines All Around the World

AUSTRALIA



A national charity providing all Australians experiencing emotional distress with access to 24 hour crisis support and suicide prevention services. Lifeline 13 11 14 If life is in danger call 000



National family violence counselling service is on 1800 737 732.

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The freephone, 24-hour
National Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 2000 247
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USA: Seminar Series on PA Research, hosted by Dr. Jennifer Harman

I am pleased to announce a new seminar series on parental alienation research that I am hosting. The seminar is specifically designed for mental health, legal, and judicial professionals who are interested in learning more about the empirical basis for parental alienation and explore how to better communicate research findings (e.g., in the courtroom, reports, policy).

This seminar series is not appropriate for targeted parents or advocates, as the focus is on the application of research to professional practice.

The goal of the series is to increase scientific literacy and understanding, so even if you do not have a science background, this seminar series is an opportunity to brush up on those skills and be more effective in your work. I am using the OnZoom beta platform for this series, which unfortunately can only stream live for U.S.-based individuals. The seminars will be recorded, however, so international professionals can still benefit by viewing the recorded seminars at their convenience.

Two published articles will be covered in each 90 minute seminar, organized by topic. The seminars will be run similar to a graduate seminar—part didactic lecture, part review of the articles, and largely a discussion of how the results can (and cannot) inform practice. There have been several hundred studies on parental alienation published in 10 languages through 2020 (Harman, Warshak, Lorandos, & Florian, 2022), and many more since that time. Forty percent of what we know on the topic has been published since 2016, so it falls to professionals working with families to update their knowledge base to better serve them. The intent of this seminar series is to provide a venue for this.

The first seminar in the series will be held on the evening of Thursday, February 1, and the topic is on PA in U.S. appellate decisions. We will focus this seminar topic on the Meier et

al. (2019) and Harman & Lorandos (2021) studies that are currently the subject of much misinformation in the courts and the media.

I hope that you consider joining me, and sharing this information with anyone for whom you think it would benefit.

For more information, please visit my website:

https://jenniferjillharman.com/?page_id=316

Thank you!

Jennifer J. Harman, Ph.D.



PHOTO BY ZINSEVICH
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SCOTLAND: Shared Parenting Scotland launches “Learning from Abroad”

While we await the long-delayed implementation of the Children (Scotland) Act 2020, Shared Parenting Scotland has published a guide listing a range of changes that could help resolve disputes about child contact or make the family court process less damaging.

“Learning From Abroad” describes nine developments in resolving family disputes which have proved successful in other countries and which could be tried in Scotland.

Some are starting to be introduced in this country, such as the New Ways For Families Course from the USA. The English ReFLEx training for family lawyers is also now available, and we are holding briefing sessions about this online course in Glasgow on May 9th and Edinburgh on May 10th.

The other developments listed in the guide are from the Netherlands, Israel, Alaska, Singapore and England. They range from an online dispute resolution platform which supports separating parents to create a parenting agreement (Uitelkaar) to Therapeutic Jurisprudence in Singapore, which

adopts a therapeutic, problem-solving approach in the family courts.

Closer to home are the Pathfinder Projects in the English and Welsh family courts, trying to create a kinder and less brutal process while helping many parents to avoid court hearings.

The guide was researched and written by Natalia Rucka during her summer 2023 internship with Shared Parenting Scotland supported by Aberdeen University. We are now working to explore how these ideas could be used to improve the resolution of family conflict.

For further information contact Ian Maxwell on 07887 500667

Shared Parenting Scotland is Scotland’s foremost shared parenting charity. For further information visit www.sharedparenting.scot. Shared Parenting Scotland was renamed and relaunched on February 10th 2020. Shared Parenting Scotland supports non-resident mothers as well as fathers, new partners, grandparents and wider family members.



PHOTO BY CHARANJEET CHANNI - PEXELS.COM

Malta: Awareness Campaign Seminar, by Happy Parenting

This is the fourth year Happy Parenting has organized an annual seminar that concludes seventeen days of activities meant to raise awareness that children need both parents. During this campaign, a number of alienated parents who are also members of Happy Parenting narrated their stories. They did this mostly in person, while others did not disclose their identity out of fear. Some reported that they met their children only for a short time every week, sometimes in the presence of social workers. Others reported that they were denied spending any time with their children. These victims of parental alienation find themselves in a difficult situation due to allegations and lies made against them. The seminar showed the mission of Happy Parenting: Prevention, Support and Therapy.

We need more professionals and volunteers to help us in providing prevention, support and therapy. Those who can offer any sort of help or need of help from us, do contact us. Send an email to admin@happyparentingmalta.com Or call us on 77603330 / 99565730.



SCOTLAND: Shared Parenting Scotland's "Learning From Abroad" Introduction and Background

SHARED PARENTING SCOTLAND

Shared Parenting Scotland is a small Scottish charity which provides support for separated parents. We encourage shared parenting arrangement after separation, so that children can continue to enjoy a meaningful relationship with both parents. We provide information, support and training to enable parents in conflict to come to child-centred agreements. Our service users include fathers, mothers, grandparents, extended family members and new partners.

We publish 'user guides' to the family court process and on the involvement of both parents in their child's education and also publish a wide range of information on our web site and through social media. As well as providing support, we campaign for changes in the law and legal procedures that will lead to better and faster support for parents and children after separation and for dispute resolution processes to be readily available and child-focussed



INTRODUCTION

CAN IT WORK HERE?

Separated parents who find themselves having to go to court in Scotland to resolve disputes about arrangements for their children find that the court process can be slow and expensive and that it often magnifies the dispute because of its adversarial nature.

This process has improved in recent years and will change further when changes brought about by the 2020 Children (Scotland) Act eventually happen. Notwithstanding these planned changes, parents and children would certainly benefit if far more cases could be resolved out of court.

This report explores developments from other countries which have the potential to improve the resolution of family conflict. Some are starting to be introduced in Scotland, such as the New Ways For Families programme for parents and the ReFLEx training for family lawyers.

Others such as the online Uitelkaar programme from the Netherlands and the Early Resolution Project from Alaska could be adapted fairly easily to work in Scotland. In most countries parents who go to court without lawyers are neglected or treated badly - Alaska shows what can be achieved for those who do not have a lawyer.

Changes such as the Israeli Regulating Legal Proceedings in Family Conflicts Law, De Gezinsadvocaat from the Netherlands and the English Pathfinders would require only rule changes not primary legislation. These moves could easily be justified by the savings in court time, not to mention the benefits for separated parents and their children.

It might seem the least likely change would be the emphasis on Therapeutic Jurisprudence that has happened in Singapore. Given



the winds of change that are currently sweeping through Scottish courts we hope that this transformation might not be the hardest sell.

"Change IS possible. So, if change is happening abroad, let's make it happen for Scotland."

This report was researched and written by Natalia Rucka LLB during her summer 2023 internship with Shared Parenting Scotland. The internship was supported by the University of Aberdeen. Shared Parenting Scotland is very grateful for the work that was carried out through this internship. We are also very grateful to the people working on these foreign projects who supplied us with information. The main published sources of information about each project and contact details are noted in the footnotes - contact them for updates on progress.

BACKGROUND

“Scottish civil courts provide a service to the public that is slow, inefficient and expensive. In short, they are failing to deliver justice.”

In his introduction to the 2009 'Report of the Scottish Civil Courts Review,' Lord Justice Clerk Gill wrote "Scottish civil courts provide a service to the public that is slow, inefficient and expensive ... In short, they are failing to deliver justice".

Lord Gill concluded that these failings mean that the legal system must make changes or "diminish public respect for the law and cause a loss of confidence in society's ability to resolve disputes justly."

Although there have been many changes to the Civil Justice System since the Gill Review, the inherent problems in Family Justice have not been addressed. Family hearings are fundamentally different to other civil hearings.

In disputes about debt or personal injury or medical negligence the aim of proceedings is for a judge to find a "winner" and a "loser". In cases where two loving and competent parents both want time with their children they "win" by attacking each other. That often feels inhumane and unfair.

Some changes have improved the Scottish family law system. The introduction of Child Welfare Hearings in 1996 following the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 enabled courts to move away from an initial adversarial procedure in the name of protecting the welfare of the child.

More recently the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 encourages the expression and inclusion of children's views, requires regulation of contact centres and child welfare reporters, and endeavours to reduce delay where possible. Once implemented along with the Family Justice Modernisation Strategy this most recent legislation could make a difference to the current system.

However, they will not fix the underlying conceptual problems. Dissatisfaction continues to exist three-fold.

“Dissatisfaction continues to exist three-fold.”

Even with the introduction of Child Welfare Hearings and the September 2023 case management rule changes⁴, there is shock amongst parents at how slow and unpredictable the system is.

The judiciary are equally affected, wasting time and resources on cases that shouldn't be in court. Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division of courts in England and Wales made his view clear for England and Wales: "20% of family disputes don't belong in court."

In a recent speech relating to England and Wales Lord Justice Peter Jackson noted: "140,000 family days in court each year represent a great deal of human anguish and expense, much of it needless."

Most of all, in the midst of the adversarial process and delays, it is the children who end up forgotten with their most important relationships on hold for months or

even longer. The damage may never be repaired. There is also no 'after care' in Scotland to help parents make their court order work.

Fundamental change is necessary to divert more disputes out of the courts and provide support for separating parents more quickly and less expensively.

The needs of children need to be placed at the centre. These decisions can affect them not just for this week or next month but into their adult life.

Similar challenges exist in jurisdictions worldwide. However, some countries have been more willing to engage with change and to acknowledge that family life and the expectations of both children and parents have transformed in the last 50 years.

We have looked abroad to explore the different solutions that have been developed in these countries and how they support parents through divorce or separation.



Supervised Visitation: Protecting Domestic Violence Survivors and their Children

by Kelly O' Rourke

Supervised visitation by definition, is a safe location/center where parents can spend time visiting with their children while under the supervision of trained professionals to ensure the safety of the child and the appropriateness of the interactions. The use of Supervised Visitation centers and professionals can be especially beneficial when dealing with cases of domestic violence. Although some would argue that a proven abuser should have no contact with his or her children, regardless of whether or not the children were abused alongside the partner, in many cases of domestic violence, courts will allow abusers of intimate partners to have supervised visits and even joint custody of their children. In these cases, Florida's Supervised Visitation centers provide a vital service to parents who may be a risk to the children or the other parents, to keep domestic violence survivors and their children safe.

Unfortunately, Supervised Visitation is not recommended or mandated by the courts as often as it could be. Some argue that it is an imposition on the defendant, and while it may well be, judges should be more aware of the many benefits of supervised visitation as well. In this article, we will review a previous study of the effectiveness of supervised visitation in curbing domestic violence and violent behavior, and consider additional information collected over the last 10 years that shows how Supervised Visitation is a useful tool in protecting survivors and their children, and therefore, should be of consideration more often in domestic violence cases.

What is Supervised Visitation

In most states, it is public policy to ensure that each minor child has frequent and ongoing contact with both parents after separation. Florida's Supervised Visitation centers provide a safe place for these interactions and offer advantages to supervision by friends or family members who might be vulnerable to an abuser's threats or intimidation. Most Supervised Visitation Centers provide a number of rooms filled with games, toys, books and other tools with which a parent might



interact with a child in a fun way. There are often food areas such as kitchens or picnic tables to share a meal and many also have outside playgrounds as well. Most importantly, Supervised Visitation Centers following state guidelines and with agreements with the courts, have a strong focus on safety measures. These safety features can include an officer on hand in the center to assure everyone's safety as well as various mechanisms such as cameras, alarms, whistles, etc. Visits range anywhere from an hour to three hours depending on client needs. During the visit a trained professional supervises the visit in an unobtrusive way either from a distance in the room or via cameras. If the parent does anything or says anything inappropriate, such as hitting the child or asking questions about the other parent, where they go, who they date, etc., the professional monitor can im-

mediately intervene. The monitor can take whatever actions are necessary from suggesting other more appropriate behaviors/topics of discussion to ending the visit outright. The goal of the visit is for a parent and child(ren) to experience fun, interactive, quality time together without fear or abuse.

In addition, most supervised visitation programs provide parenting classes and parenting education programs as well as referrals to other agencies for needed services such as substance abuse and mental health care.

Outcomes

How do we know that Supervised Visitation keeps domestic violence survivors and their children safer? In 2010, The FSU Institute for Family Violence's Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation conduct-



closing of the supervised visitation case in order to see if supervised visitation might have had played a part in any declines in domestic abuse.

The average number of visits per case reviewed was 14.7 and the average length of the case and visits was 7 months before it was closed. Once cases were closed, they were tracked for a year to determine if any new allegations of violence had occurred. While 37.1% of cases had arrests for domestic violence prior to supervised visitation, only 14.5% were arrested for violent crimes while the supervised visitation case was open, and just 12.1% had arrests for violence in the year after the case was closed. Each case's involvement with child protective services was also reviewed. In at least 20% of the cases, there was prior involvement with child protective services during the previous two years, while only 4.8% of families were involved with child protective services up to a year after the case closed. This is a drop of about 75%.

The decrease in both arrests for violence and involvement with child protective services one year after cases were closed, suggests positive outcomes for most families ordered to supervised visitation in domestic violence cases. This supports the idea that supervised visitation made vulnerable parents and children safer.

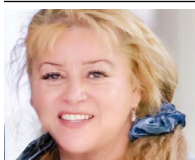
Over the last 10 years, the Institute has continued to collect data on cases as they are closed noting if violence was present in the case prior to supervised visitation, during supervised visitation, and up to a year after the supervised visitation case was closed. The data has been consistent and for example, in 2022-2023 has shown that out of those cases with arrests for violence prior to supervised visitation, only 12.1% experienced violence during supervised visitation and 3.6% were known to have arrests for violence in the year after the supervised visitation case was closed.

There are many reasons one could suggest as to why we see this decline. Perpetra-



ed a review of 149 closed cases from five different supervised visitation centers. All cases had orders for supervised visitation in their domestic violence injunctions, meaning the courts had received a petition for injunction, granted the petition for injunction, and then ordered supervised visitation as a means of protecting the vulnerable parent and children. Each of the identified cases had been closed for at least a year. The review sought to determine the presence of domestic violence prior to supervised visitation, during supervised visitation, and then for a year following the

tors may be less likely to act out violently knowing they are now being closely monitored. They may be benefitting from the parenting education and other referrals to services provided by supervised visitation programs. It would require further research to parse out the specific reason in each case, but the overall outcomes are positive nonetheless. Supervised Visitation has been shown to be one mechanism for lowering the risk of further abuse in domestic violence injunction cases. Rather than being seen as punitive to the perpetrator, it should be seen by judges as a means of improvement instead, and prescribed more often whenever possible.



Kelly O'Rourke is a three-time graduate of FSU and has worked as a Research Associate and FL Statewide Supervised Visitation Database Director for FSU's Institute for Family Violence Studies since its inception. Kelly specializes in teaching, training and research in domestic abuse, including elder abuse, teen dating abuse and domestic violence, as well as supervised visitation. Contact Kelly at kes2523@fsu.edu, and by T 850-222-3845 850-321-1638 (cell)

A poem

by Lena Hellblom Sjögren, PhD,

*can you see
through
the fog*

*if
the fog
is not visible*

*does
it then
exist*

*you were
in the treetops
when I*

*called
your name
come down*

*you fell
or
did I fly*

*to
you
in the dreams*

*in the mirror
I seek
you*

*the time passed
has lost
your face*



Lena Hellblom Sjögren, PhD, is the mother of 4 children, a grandmother of 5 and the oldest of 8 siblings. For more than 25 years, Dr. Sjögren's focus has been on parental alienation and to try to put attention to the fact that many children and families – also grandparents and other family members - are harmed for life through this phenomenon to without a justified cause cut off a child from the child's family roots. Dr. Sjögren is also a member of PASG Board of Directors

pasg 2024 Oslo Conference

Promoting the child's best interests

Parental alienation represents a major threat to children's interests, health, and wellbeing. It is inadequately recognized and managed in many countries, including Norway. The PASG's 2024 conference will focus on international efforts to improve legislation, child protective services, family protective services and public awareness of the child's human rights to stay in contact with both parents, even after divorce or separation.

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“It’s brutal”: When grandma and grandpa are no longer allowed to see their grandchildren

By Simon Hehli / Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ) / Originally published on 01/15/2024

Gerda Scherrer* would like to be a grandmother like many others: a grandmother who looks after her grandchildren, plays with them, celebrates birthdays and Christmas with them. But the octogenarian is not allowed to do that. She has only seen her ten-year-old granddaughter a few times. When the girl turned nine, her grandmother could only quickly press a gift into her hand at the front door.

Gerda Scherrer mainly blames her former daughter-in-law for this state of affairs. Since separating from her son, she has refused to allow her grandparents to have contact with her granddaughter. “And she puts pressure on our son by saying he’s only allowed to see his daughter when we’re not around.” The fact that her granddaughter hardly knows her makes her sad, says Gerda Scherrer. “It’s not about us, we have other grandchildren. But we think our granddaughter is missing something if she doesn’t know her grandparents.” Scherrer and her husband have already tried a lot. They proposed mediation and appealed to the district court, both to no avail.

Kurt Baumgartner* is also disappointed. He knows that he has two grandchildren, one is three years old, the other one is one year old. He’s never seen her before. The family situation is broken. Baumgartner has been at odds with his ex-wife for a long time, and for several years now, his son has not wanted anything to do with him either. His children are thus out of reach for Kurt-Baumgartner. “It’s brutal,” he says.

Hardly any rights for relatives

For Baumgartner, it’s déjà vu. After the divorce in the 1990s, he fought for him and other divorced fathers (and also affected mothers) to be granted joint custody. He was successful in doing so. But now it’s about the next generation, the children of his children. And here the chances are much worse. Baumgartner is in contact with Gerda Scherrer and is looking for other victims.” There are many cases like mine.” He also writes to politicians from left to right. The goal: to change the cur-



rent law, which grants grandparents and other caregivers from the family hardly any rights – in contrast to other countries.

The Swiss Civil Code states: “If there are extraordinary circumstances, the right to personal contact may also be granted to other persons, in particular relatives, provided that this is in the best interests of the child.” So there are two restrictions, the “extraordinary circumstances” and the best interests of the child. As a result, the local courts very rarely force contact between grandchildren and grandparents against the will of one of the parents.

In the summer of 2018, the Federal Supreme Court made such a rare decision. It supported the ruling of the Zurich High Court, which granted a couple the right to see their grandson for two hours every two months and to be allowed to talk to him on the phone on birthdays, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. However, there were “extraordinary circumstances” in the case. The child’s father had died in an accident.

Therefore, the courts found that it was in the boy’s best interest to be able to establish and maintain a relationship with his paternal family of origin. This is conducive to his identity development. It is true that there are conflicts between the mother and the parents of her deceased partner. But they did not exhibit a quality that would entail the risk of a conflict of loyalties endangering the child’s well-being. “In terms of the best interests of the child, these advantages more than outweigh the disadvantages associated with the right of contact.”

Intimate relationship is not enough

The situation is different when – as in the case of the Scherrers and Kurt Baumgartner – both parents of the children are still alive. At the beginning of 2023, the Federal Supreme Court dismissed a grandfather’s appeal against a decision by the Zurich High Court. He had argued in vain that he had a close relationship with his grandchildren, who were born in 2015 and 2017. After a falling out in 2019, grandpa has only seen the children twice.

For the courts, the once intimate relationship is not relevant. Today, the children have neither a relationship with their grandfather nor conscious memories of him. He has also described his daughter-in-law as a “hereditary enemy” and accuses her of an alleged cult past. In view of this dispute, the High Court saw a great risk that the children would be exposed to a burdensome conflict of loyalties. In addition, the children are well integrated into the family and also maintain regular contact on their father’s side.



The Federal Supreme Court also reiterated the wording of the law: even if contact with the grandparents would be in the interest of a child, this alone is not sufficient. At the same time, there must be “extraordinary circumstances” that the law does not explain in more detail. This is where Swiss law differs from German law. It states: “Grandparents and siblings have a right to contact with the child if it is in the child’s best interests.” The German advice service for seniors Provita concludes from this passage: “If the grandparents have a caring and loving relationship with their grandchild, it becomes difficult for the grandchild’s parents to prevent contact.”

Support only from the SVP

The French go even further. According to the law, a child has the right to maintain personal relations with his grandparents. And only “serious reasons” could be an ob-

stacle to this. The grandparents concerned would like to see a similarly generous regulation for Switzerland as well. Gerda Scherrer and her husband submitted a petition to the national parliament in 2018: grandparents and minor children should have a mutual right to “appropriate” personal intercourse. In 2019, both chambers rejected the petition, with the SVP parliamentary group in the National Council voting virtually unanimously in favour.

The pre-deliberative legal commission stated that it was aware of how important it is for children to have a relationship with their grandparents. Nevertheless, the regulation of contacts between children and grandparents should be primarily the responsibility of the parents. Accordingly, a right of visitation must be reserved for exceptional cases. “It’s an issue that is not a priority for most politicians,” says Ger-

da Scherrer about the fact that her petition was not successful.

Roland Fankhauser, professor of civil law at the University of Basel, says that the claims of grandparents have increasingly come into the public eye in the last ten years. But the courts could not bring themselves to interpret the law a little less restrictively.

When is it possible to pass over parents?

There are certainly reasons to give grandparents a better legal position, says Fankhauser. As a result, they often did a lot of unpaid care work. “In addition, the knowledge of ancestry is meaningless for the grandchildren if they cannot fill it with content and live the relationships.” In addition, grandparents and grandchildren have a duty to support each other in an emergency. “The question arises as to whether a right of contact would not at best be complementary to such an obligation.”

However, from Fankhauser’s point of view, it would also be tricky if a court were to put the rights of grandparents above those of parents who refuse contact with their granddaughter. “This could possibly be justified in the case of child endangerment, for example if a child is isolated from the outside world in a cult. But hardly in an ordinary family conflict.”

Thomas Geiser, emeritus professor of private law at the University of St. Gallen, is also skeptical about a change in the law. He points out that Swiss law is broader than German law: in this country, visitation rights can be granted to third parties regardless of the degree of relationship; it is not limited to grandparents and siblings.

Geiser believes that the Swiss solution makes much more sense because the legal family ties are of secondary importance in these cases. What is important is whether there is a real relationship between the child and the person in question. “From today’s perspective, it is not important whether these are formally the (legal) grandparents or other people who have a close relationship with the child.”



Simon Hehli had his first journalistic experiences during high school as a freelancer at “Toggenburger” and “St. Galler Tagblatt». He studied history, political science and religious studies in Zurich and Buenos Aires, completing his licentiate thesis on the topic “Argentina 1941 to 1955 as perceived by the Swiss ambassadors and the NZZ”. Since August 2014 he’s part of the domestic editorial team of the NZZ. Contact Simon at: simon.hehli@nzz.ch and [linkedin.com/in/simon-hehli-8b395123](https://www.linkedin.com/in/simon-hehli-8b395123).

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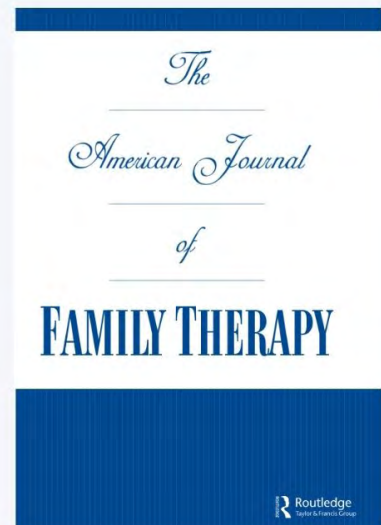
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Who's the Parent?

By Joan Kloth-Zanard, MFT, ADA, RSS, ABI, GAL, MDCE, LC

Any parent who claims that they can't make the child go to visitation or therapy with the other parent, clearly is not a good parent or they are lying. A good parent would have a more respectful child that listens to them and respects their wishes and rules. If a parent cannot control their child, then they are making their own problem. This parent is telling the child they do not have to listen to authority, and that, they, the child, can parent themselves. If not, then the parent claiming they have no control over the child is lying.

What we need to know about our children's mental and emotional development.

Concrete Reasoning to Abstract Reasoning

At about the age of 8-10, kids go from concrete reasoning to abstract reasoning. What this means is they go from a horse is a horse because it has a large, furry animal with four legs that runs fast and says neigh; to the question stage asking why, what, where, when and other critical thinking questions. It is these questions that trigger the flight/fight response in the alienator who then pours on the alienating tactics. It causes the child to psychologically split especially if they do not want to take sides. What these children lack is executive functioning skills such as critical thinking.

Children with good self-worth and self-esteem do not succumb to alienating tactics so easily if at all. Children that have low

self-esteem are much more vulnerable to the custodial interference and brainwashing alienating tactics. These children actually go into a self-protection mode to ensure that their abusive alienating parent still loves them. Improving a child's self-esteem and self-worth helps them to examine their situation and not be inculcated into a cult of anger, fear, hatred and rage at the behest of one parent. It gives them the opportunity to think critically for themselves. And this will enable them to better navigate the adult world. And they will be less likely to be alienated, self-harming, suicidal or have gender identity issues.

Depending on the level of alienation in the child will depend on how things are approached. Mild to Moderate: You might be able to say something like: "Does what you are saying even make sense to what you know about me?" If they are severely alienated, the only way to overturn it is with Intensive Reintegration Therapy like that used to debunk a religious cult, reunify someone who has been kidnapped (think Patty Hearst or Stockholm Syndrome). This reestablishing of a once healthy relationship must be done with a Professional who is properly trained in Alienation and Cult like behavior reversal. The longer this goes on, the worse the damage to the child and the larger the negative effects in adulthood.

What this means:

When a parent claims that the child does not want to go or they should be allowed to



make this decision about visitation or the child is refusing to go saying it is their own wishes, they are not only adultifying them at a too early an age but also parentifying them. Adultification occurs when a child is led to believe that they are old enough to make grownup decisions that could affect their lives permanently. Parentification refers to allowing a child to believe they are equal to their parent as a partner and confidant. Neither of these scenarios





is good for a child because their physical, emotional and mental development has not been completed to allow for this level of autonomy.

Reality is that children do not have the emotional and mental maturity to decide to permanently remove one parent from their lives. In fact, the human brain does not stop growing until age 25 and does not stop maturing until about age 35. It is why our federal and state governments listened to the scientific research and studies from over the past century to determine that children should not allowed to vote until they are 18, drink or smoke until they are 21 or rent a car until age 25. If the federal and state governments using scientific research and evidence, have made these laws, then it stands to reason children should not be allowed to make such a momentous decision as to remove one parent and their extended family from their lives. They just do not have the emotional or mental maturity to understand the consequences especially when there are no valid grounds. In the end, allowing a child to be an adult and parent too soon, can end in serious

tragedy if they discover everything, they believed, is a lie about the other parent. These children then feel horrific guilt and this leads to self-harm.

In fact, according to Linda J. Gottlieb, LMFT, LCSW-R, who worked with abused/neglected foster children for over 25 years, there was only two things all of these children asked 99% of the time. “When can I see my mom/dad?” and “When can I go home?” She states this is because children gravitate to their abuser. (Gottlieb, L. (2012). *The parental alienation syndrome: A family therapy and collaborative systems approach to amelioration*. Springfield, IL: Thomas.). She is not alone in this understanding of children’s attitudes toward their abusers. These children are terrified of being abandoned by the abuser and treated just like the ousted parent is treated in the aggressive alienating favored parent’s home.

So, when a parent says that the child can make this decision about visitation, ask them the following:

1. If the child has a doctor’s appointment, and refuses to go, is it okay for the child not to go?
2. If the child refused to study for a test at school and doesn’t want to go to school, is it okay for them to just stay home?
3. If a child refuses to be respectful to a teacher, is this, okay?
4. If a child is bullying another child is this, okay?
5. If your child broke his wrist and refused to go the hospital to get it fixed, would you allow him to not go?
6. If your child had a substance abuse problem and needed help for it, would you ignore this and not make him go for treatment?
7. If your child just watched his best friend get murdered, would you just let it go and not get him counseling?
8. If your child was the victim of a violent crime and refused to go to counseling, would you let it slide?
9. If your child tried to kill themselves but refused counseling, would you just let it go?
10. If your child had detention at school but refused to go? Is this, okay?

If the answers to the questions are no, then why is it okay for you, the parent, to allow a child to violate a court order? Either the parent is lying about encouraging a positive relationship or the parent is a very good parent and lacking in appropriate parenting skills. Which is it? In fact, this is a parental control issue when a parent claims they cannot get a child to go to visitation or counseling with the other parent. Either the parent has no authority and the family systems dynamic is unbalanced or the parent is projecting their family of origin issues and low self-esteem issues onto the other parent, and thus lying about encouraging a relationship between child and parent. A good parent would never allow their

▼ CONTINUES ON PAGE 18



▲ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

child to disrespect their rules. If a parent cannot control their child, it means that the child and parent have a dysfunctional relationship and proper family therapy using structural and systems family therapy needs to be applied as the parent is allowing the child to not only usurp their authority, but the authority of all adults.

A Parents job as is to encourage a positive relationship with the other parent and this includes providing positive statements. When a parent cannot say one nice positive thing about the other parent, they are ignoring their own reasons for why they fell in love and joined their lives with this other parent. There must have been something wonderful that attracted them to the other parent otherwise, the only other reason was deceit in the marriage. A positive statement could be anything like, “Your mother/father...”

- ▶ Believes in eating right and exercising so you can trust them to feed you well and be active with you.
- ▶ Is great in math, spelling, writing, science, computers etc. so they are the right parent to help you with this topic.
- ▶ Is great at baseball, basketball, rowing a boat, so go enjoy some quality time with the other parent doing something you both like.

▶ Makes amazing eggs or is an amazing cook, you could learn a lot from them about preparing a great meal to eat.

These positive statements allow the child to feel good about the other parent. And this then lets the child feel good that half of them is like that parent. More importantly, it allows the child to still love the other parent and want to spend time with them. Without positive reinforcement about the other parent, the child is led to believe that the other parent is all bad.

What we see: Symptoms in Children Associated to Parental Alienation (From the book by Lorandos & Bernet, “Parental Alienation - Science and Law”, P. 8-9)

Summarizing a great deal of research, Barbara Jo Fidler and her colleagues explained that data consistently show that alienated children are at risk for emotional distress and adjustment difficulties and at much greater risk than children from litigating families who are not alienated. They reported that clinical observations, case reviews, and qualitative comparative research uniformly indicate that alienated children may exhibit: (a) poor reality testing; (b) illogical cognitive operations; (c) simplistic and rigid information processing; (d) inaccurate or distorted interpersonal perceptions; (e) self-hatred; (f) low or inflated self-esteem; (g) pseudo-maturity; (h) gender-identity problems; (i) poor differentiation of self

(enmeshment); (j) aggression and conduct disorders; (k) disregard for social norms and authority; (l) poor impulse control; (m) emotional constriction, passivity, or dependency; and (n) lack of remorse or guilt. (Barbara Jo Fidler, Nicholas Bala, Rachel Birnbaum, Katherine Kavassalis, “Challenging Issues in Child Custody Disputes: A Guide For Legal and Mental Health Professionals” 226–227 (2008).

What the courts should be applying:

The courts need to start employing what I call the “Intact Family Rule” or “Common-sense 101”. If the behavior is not acceptable in an intact family, then why is it permitted in a divorced family? And if it is permitted in an intact family, why is it not allowed in a divorced family? The courts should be trying to keep stability and as few changes as possible to a child’s daily life. Allowing divorces to overrule what goes on in a normal intact family, or even in a normal divorce, means we are compromising the future for the child. They never learn what acceptable behavior is or is not because they are getting mixed answers. This prevents them from critically thinking and thus their executive functioning skills become compromised. And this is a recipe for disaster as the child grows into an adult. It is no wonder we have an epidemic of narcissistic personality tendencies and personalities. How could the child not have this when they were given permission to be an adult and parent long before they were emotionally and mentally ready.

Critical Thinking and Commonsense of Shared Parenting

COMMONSENSE RULE	FACT
Commonsense 101 <i>The Intact Family Rule.</i>	If the behavior is not acceptable in an intact family (non-divorced), then why is it permitted in a divorced family.
Commonsense 102 <i>Probate Presumption = Family Court Presumption</i>	If in probate court there is a presumption of joint/shared custody related to guardianship, then it should also follow into family court for separating or divorcing parents. Otherwise, this is discrimination against separating/divorcing parents.
Commonsense 103 <i>Secondary Education</i>	If an intact family cannot be forced to pay for secondary college or child support for children, then it cannot be forced upon a separated/divorced family especially where shared parenting does not exist or the relationship between a parent and their children has been interfered with.
Commonsense 104 <i>Child Support</i>	\$1 dollar does not become \$2 in income just because parents separate or get divorced. We don't demand that intact families pay for their children, and in fact, give them assistance when they cannot afford it.
Commonsense 105 <i>Minors Decision Making</i>	If in an intact family, children are not just allowed to drop out of school, or violate the law or harm another or steal or disregard/disrespect a parent, then how are the courts giving children the ability to decide if and when they will see their parent. If children were allowed to make these kinds of momentous decisions with no consequences, they would be choosing to not go to school, to stay up all night and to be rude and arrogant to whomever they please.
Commonsense 106 <i>Healthy Relationship</i>	If prior to a separation and divorce, the children had a healthy relationship with their parent, then this should not have changed unless one parent is deliberately impeding with that relationship.
Commonsense 107 <i>Age of Majority</i>	If we do not allow children to vote until 18, then clearly, they do not have enough emotional or mental maturity to remove one parent and decide not to visit them.
Commonsense 108 <i>Disagreements don't mean disowning</i>	If every child who had a disagreement with a parent could disown them, no children would have parents
Commonsense 109 <i>Children are not resilient</i>	Children are not truly resilient, as their psychological and emotional development is not fully formed until age 25 and 35. How could they possibly make a decision to disregard court orders or to disown a parent.
Commonsense 110 <i>Blocking a Relationship</i>	If blocking a parent in a marriage from access to the children's medical or educational info is not allowed, then why should it be allowed in a divorce.
Commonsense 111 <i>Child's Refusals</i>	If a child is not allowed to refuse to go to school, refuse to go to a medical appointment, refuse to do their chores, refuse to be nice, refuse to spend time with one parent, then why are they allowed to violate court orders for visitation?
Commonsense 112 <i>Family Conflicts</i>	If a child is saying they hate the other parent and this was an intact family, the child and parent would be in specialized therapy to work through the issue.
Commonsense 113 <i>Family Conflicts</i>	If a Child Support receiving parent can retro-back on child support where financial information was false, then the same should qualify for a child support paying parent who has been overpaying.

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QUESTION: Hi, the visiting parent wants to take his child to Church to baptize his 3 year old on a visit. However, he has advised the CP that he will baptize the MC every weekend to wash the sins of the CP off of the child. Is baptism allowed?

My client wants to have friends and extended family ride with us on a visit. I said no

Dr. Mark: Hi all,

Baptism in visitation is, pardon me, 'baptism under fire'. Lol

The question shared is actually revealing about the Non Custodial Parent. They have intimated that they despise the Custodial parent, so much that they wish to remove any 'sins' or spiritual energy that may contaminate the child.

I would reach out the Court with a status report. I would reach out to all attorneys and or other parties in the case and advise them of this request, you inability to permit it, and to cease servicing this family unless there is an agreement otherwise. Send them to mediation, or back to court. But stop providing services now, or at least until you have a formal agreement between the parties that has been entered into the Court record.

That this question came up is so interesting; i wonder how many religious requests occur during the year with any provider? The question when confronted with such a request is, where is our neutrality? Is permitting someone to not just observe their faith, but actually to conduct a rite, to the child?

This is a trigger for complications and accusations of indoctrination and quite a few fault lines.



MAINTAIN NEUTRALITY

Permitting a parent to perform a service or rite on a child in visitation i believe is dangerous, if not just out of our scope.

If a parent wanted a child to experience and or traverse a religious or other even fraternal rite, then it needs to be led by the primary parent in an agreed upon venue. There's no reason why the custodial parent cannot invite the non custodial parent to such a significant milestone, for the family i might add.

How about the parents using such an event as a step towards the co-parenting they should be transitioning towards? Supervised visitation is an excellent vehicle for helping parents to become focused on co-parenting.

Again, this is a great question, as it is far from any i have yet heard or thought of.

The nature of religious observances, and religious rites of passage should be a presentation at the next and future conferences.

Response to column of November 27th titled, "Child's Young Mother Manipulating Father"

Dear Amy,

I'm writing in response to your column of November 27 titled, "Child's Young Mother Manipulating Father". Here, a very young father's mother writes concerning the control by the young mother who limits this father's access to their child, particularly when she learns that he is dating someone else.

Your advice is spot on, to contact an attorney to create a parenting agreement, and certainly, to assure both of their respective parenting obligations to the child, and

each other as co-parents.

But, 'as luck would have it', both these parents are so incredibly young, younger than the hormones which have propelled them, irresponsible I might add.

Yet, their predicament unless otherwise stated, demonstrates far more common the controls and, abusive behaviors which many separated and divorced parents suffer. Thus as you had so well immediately recommended is the need for vital legal intervention. I would argue that so is individual therapy, and co-parenting education.

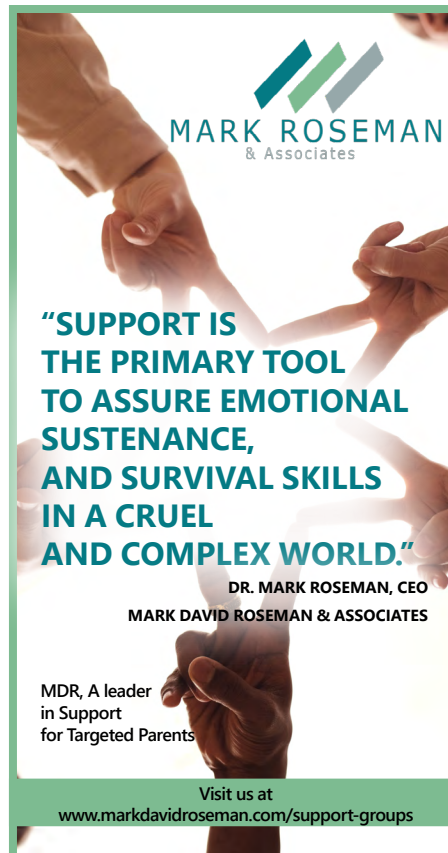
It truly is remarkable how universal the abusive behaviors of one parent towards another may be found.

In twenty five years working in this field, I am less surprised by the commonality of hostility between parents. As my mentor in Washington, David Levy, founder of the Children's Rights Council, I remain further disappointed by the inability still of the family court system to yet modify itself to deal appropriately to affirm more parents and children of their rights and responsibilities beyond the parents' separation and divorce.

(I remember meeting you years ago at the CRC conference where you had given a most humbling and heartfelt keynote! Thank you for that! What a pleasure to read your column every day! Your spirited and practical advice are so wise, and clearly unlikely answers people may hear from family and friends (for differing reasons I'm sure).



With much appreciation,
Mark Roseman



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ASK AMY
By Amy Dickinson
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Child's young mother manipulating father

Dear Amy: My son "Thomas" dated "Allyssa" sporadically during high school. It was a volatile relationship (he's nonconfrontational, she loves drama). Allyssa became pregnant at the end of his senior year (her junior year). He took a paternity test to confirm that he was the father. They managed to work out visitation (nothing legal). Thomas has "Trent" three days a week. Trent is now 10 months old. Thomas loves him so much. The problem is that every time Thomas starts dating someone, Allyssa uses the baby as a pawn. She doesn't want her son to be around another girl, and makes up lies about the girl as reasons to keep the baby away. When Thomas tries to keep a good friendship between him and Allyssa for the baby's sake, Allyssa thinks he wants to resume their romance. When she doesn't get what she wants, it's total drama. I know a lot of this is immaturity, but she also has an unhealthy obsession with my son. She has been in therapy, but says it is only to please her mother. Thomas has also seen a therapist (because of her). I've advised him to either continue on this course, knowing the pitfalls, or go through the courts for joint custody. He's afraid of how Allyssa will react. He's afraid she won't let him see Trent for months, during the time it would take to go before a judge. What do you think?
— Concerned Grandmother

Dear Concerned: Your son should see a lawyer immediately to establish parental rights and responsibilities. Otherwise, "Allyssa" will continue to manipulate him, threatening access to their child. She could also choose to move, taking their son with her, and "Thomas" would then have to scramble to try to assert his legal rights. If Thomas wants to date, he has four nights when he does not have his son with him. Until he is in a serious long-term relationship, it would be wisest for him to minimize his dates' contact with his son. He should lock down his social media and ask anyone he is dating not to post about their relationship on social media. He should always use birth control, and he should verify that anyone he has sex with is also using birth control. His lawyer will advise him about maintaining his current custody arrangement until the matter goes through the courts. He should avoid discussing this with Allyssa until he has a court date.

Dear Amy: Recently my wife and I took our elder parents and our 11-year-old daughter out for some pre-Christmas shopping at our mall. We were going to have lunch together in the mall and maybe see an afternoon movie. We were all looking forward to this outing, which is something we used to do before the pandemic struck. Our daughter has been acting up and acting out recently, and starting from when we arrived, she was grouchy and disrespectful.

We can put up with a little of that, but she was treating store employees rudely, too. Basically, she seemed to make it her mission to ruin our day — and she did. We're now wondering what we should have done differently.
— Exhausted Dad

Dear Dad: Your parents should have taken her aside at the first sign of trouble, and asked her to recognize her poor behavior and get it together. If she didn't adjust her attitude within a reasonable time frame, one parent should have calmly taken her home so she could experience a very quiet day of media-free reflection, while the other parent carried on with the outing. You should then explain to her that your goal is for her to show her best self and to treat others well. She doesn't seem ready to do that, but when she is, you'll try again.

Dear Amy: I didn't like your tone with "Dog Tired." Her daughter wants to bring her four dogs to the wedding? Sounds like she hasn't a brain in her head. And I did not think the mother was judging or undermining. Why is it always the mother's fault?
— Upset

Dear Upset: It was the daughter's wedding, and she had laid her paw prints down as a nonnegotiable. I agreed with the mother (and you) that this was bananas.

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5 Ways To Minimize How Divorce Impacts Your Children

By Rosalind Sedacca, CDC

Communication with our children is always important, but never as essential as when they are impacted by separation or divorce. Children are vulnerable and easily frightened by changes in their routines. The more you talk to and comfort them, the less stress and anxiety they'll experience. This is the time to reassure your children that you are taking care of matters and everyone in the family will be okay. Then, of course, take responsibility for doing what needs to be done to assure their wellbeing.

Here are five important ways you can minimize the impact of divorce on your children to help them thrive during and after your divorce.

Strive for structure and normalcy

1. Strive to keep as much normalcy in your children's lives as is feasible. Maintaining relationships with friends and neighbors provides a sense of routine and continuity. Keeping children in the same school and remaining in the same house or neighborhood, when possible, serves to remind

children that life is still going on as usual in many ways. That awareness makes it easier to adapt to the other changes happening at the same time. Always make decisions based on their emotional security.

Be alert about changing behavior

2. Children of divorce can express their frustrations by acting out, turning in and behaving in unfamiliar ways. Aggression, depression and falling school grades can be signs of unaddressed stressors. Don't wait for emotional or behavior problems to appear. It is often wise to talk to a family therapist or divorce coach in advance about issues to be aware of. Or schedule a few sessions with your children so they can express their anxiety, fear, anger, etc. and feel "heard" by an objective third party. Ask friends, pediatricians or educators for referrals to professionals experienced with divorce.

Provide stability and security

3. Make spending time and attention with your children a priority. With all

the stress in your life it's easy to overlook your kid's need for stability and security. The best source for that is you. It's easy to take solace with friends or bury yourself in work, but your children need you more than ever right now. Your love and attention are the most valuable resources you can share with them. Make sure you are generous with both!

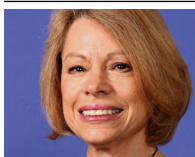
Prepare kids for conversations

4. Talk to your children about ways to discuss the divorce with their friends and extended family. Coach them on answers to probing questions from the outside, such as, "I don't know. My mom and dad are working on it." Or "You'll have to ask my mom about that." Do whatever it takes to remember that your children deserve to have and keep their childhood. Let them be kids. Never burden them with adult responsibilities, challenges or conversations.

Create a support system

5. Seek out other families who have experienced divorce as part of a new network. This can provide support and new friends for you as well as your children. They will appreciate meeting other kids who know what they are going through and can share feelings and stories. School guidance counselors may be able to help you find support groups, clubs or other helpful resources for you as well as your children.

Some days you may want to hide in a closet or under the blankets in bed. So may your children. But they can't always express what they are feeling and why. It is your responsibility to be diligent in protecting your children -- emotionally as well as physically. Keep the doors to communication open as non-judgmentally as you can. This will go a long way toward helping the children you love get through these challenging times with the best possible outcome.



Rosalind Sedacca, CDC is a Divorce & Parenting Coach and author of several books and ebooks, including *How Do I Tell the Kids About the Divorce? A Create-a-Storybook Guide to Preparing Your Children -- With Love!* For her free ebook on *Post-Divorce Parenting: Success Strategies for Getting It Right!*, her Coaching services, programs and other valuable resources on divorce and parenting issues visit: <https://www.childcentereddivorce.com>.

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WHO WE ARE

A quarterly publication for family professionals across disciplines. The Magazine is a tool for family professionals, policymakers, child advocates and parents seeking to improve child outcomes. Editorial content provides practical thought and insight, and helpful, stimulating reviews. Research and journalism, interview and opinion are welcome.

OUR AUDIENCE

Available by online subscription, Contemporary Family Magazine reaches an international audience of several thousand readers from across professional, research, and academic disciplines. Increasingly, the magazine seeks to be a forum for those professionals working to improve child outcomes across the globe. Major editorial topics include:

- Child Welfare
- Child Custody
- Co-Parenting
- Family Science
- Systems Therapy
- Child Reunification
 - Public Policy
 - Education
 - Medicine
- Child Advocacy
 - Family Law
- Child and Family Services
 - Parental Alienation
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• Summer: May 15th
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Contemporary Family Magazine embraces stories about individuals, businesses, and organizations working to build resilience in family life and family change. Feature stories allow for interviews, original discussion and traditional journalism addressing significant concerns, changes, challenges and achievements on aspects of family from the perspective of law, child advocacy and custody, social policy, government, medicine, and psychology.

RESEARCH & WHITE PAPERS: (2,500-3,500 WORDS)

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READERS GOALS

Our readers are family professionals across disciplines and many parents, all seeking guidance to improve their co-parenting relationships, to better advocate for court reform and to intervene when parental alienation may be apparent in their child custody case.

in family science and human services, child custody and public policy with evaluations of applied research in these areas so that readers may consider how to implement findings in their own organization and community. Authors of these documents may find it easier for feedback, portfolio attributions and career growth.

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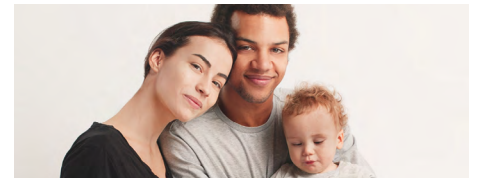
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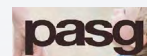
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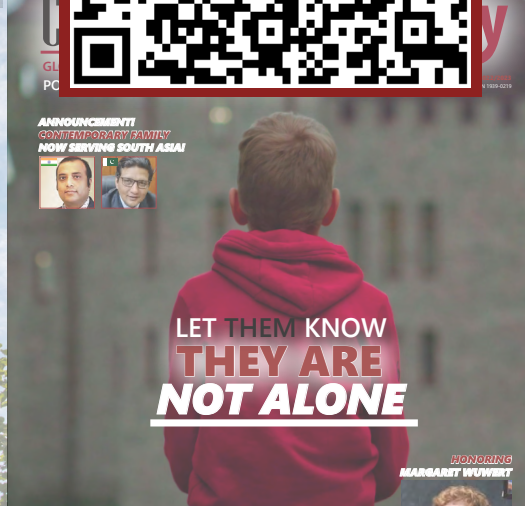
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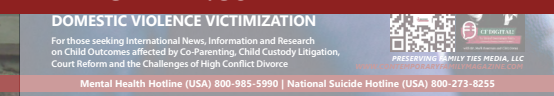
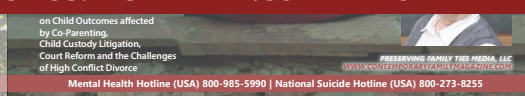
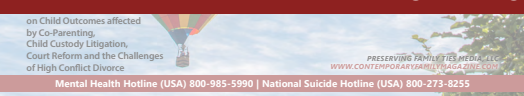
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