

New!

# Parental Alienation

How to understand and address parental alienation resulting from acrimonious divorce or separation

By L. F. Lowenstein

A significant and challenging contribution to debates on the effects of family breakdown – including the question "Do families need fathers?" – *Parental Alienation* calls for major steps forward:

- for the judiciary to appreciate better how parental alienation syndrome (PAS) functions.
- for wider understanding of how a parent can manipulate the system causing tragic consequences to the children as well as the parents themselves.
- for children to be protected from the tragic consequences of being alienated from a loving parent.
- for both parents to be treated fairly by the system.

Good, non-abusive parents have a duty of care over their mutually conceived children. Some parents are a danger to children in brainwashing them against an absent parent. Preparing parents at the time they have children could do much to prevent there being future generations of victims of PAS-related abuse. What is required is a revolution in thinking and behaviour – parents can be helped to play a positive role in bringing up children, despite the break up of the adult relationship, into a happier future.

**Part I discusses the problems encountered by parents and their children** when parental alienation occurs. How both children and parents suffer as a result of the implacable hostility between the parents is discussed in detail. Drawing frequently on international research, the book identifies the signs of PAS. **Part II is concerned with the role of judges** who have to make decisions for the benefit of children. Judges are not psychologists. They are influenced by so-called experts but more so by the law or legal process. Judges need to be made aware how easily children are manipulated by disaffected parents. They need to make decisions based on the real facts as to why a child wishes no, or little, contact with an absent parent. This could lead to real justice for non-custodial parents and benefit the child tremendously. **Part III is concerned with the important task of seeking to remedy PAS.** Lowenstein's basic principle is that both parents have the right and the responsibility to guide their children appropriately. Both the experts and the courts need to form an alliance to help parents to resolve their differences to safeguard the welfare of their children. Often very hard decisions have to be made and stuck to.

*Parental Alienation* addresses the important issues of mediation and of treatment for harm done. There is considerable research about the harm that can be done to children, in both the short and long term, as a result of parental alienation conflicts. Parents with implacable hostility towards one another frequently make untrue or exaggerated accusations against another parent. This includes allegations of physical or sexual abuse. This book deals with how to identify and treat false accusations of abuse, and discusses the remedial and therapeutic methods required in PAS, and the psychological assessment and treatment of pathologically induced alienation.

Challenging, controversial, even provocative, this important book cannot be ignored.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Dr L. F. Lowenstein is a forensic psychologist in the area of clinical psychology, educational psychology and general problems related to psychological changes within individuals. He was previously Chief Educational Psychologist for Hampshire and has acted in a large number of legal cases and written over 390 articles involving forensic cases, personal injury, Parental Alienation Syndrome and family and children issues.

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