

Removing Bias from Alienation Theories

**with Research and an
Evidence-Based Approach**



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Problems with Unscientific Alienation Theories

Lack research support.



Created to help abusive fathers gain custody from good mothers.



Bias focuses on mothers' behavior, ignoring fathers' abusive tactics.

Problems with Present Court Responses to Alienation

If courts are going to continue to consider alienation theories, they must remove the bias.

Current Practices ignore the actual effects on children.

Courts are assuming alienation instead of using an evidence-based approach.

Examples of Present Court Harmful Responses for Alienation

Father denying his daughter's privacy to undress.



Because the father said he did not do it for sexual reasons, it was dismissed.

Mother withholding her children for protection from alleged abuser.



Assumed as Alienating the Children from the Father

How Alienation Bias Harms Children

Two fathers conspiring to separate siblings → Court fails to recognize motive

Mother encourages healthy parenting → Labeled as alienation for implying criticism of father

How Alienation Bias Harms Children

Father's coercive control on mother impacts her health → Dismissed as 'normal litigation tactics'

Mother reporting father's abuse or harmful behavior → Viewed as undermining his relationship

How Alienation Bias Harms Children

Reporting

Reporting child abuse
and seeking treatment
→ Seen as undermining
father's relationship

Withholding

Withholding therapy or
treatment → Framed as
father's 'right to decide'

Harmful Outcome Cases

Extreme Decisions

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graph TD; A[Extreme Decisions] --> B[Custody awarded to alleged abuser]; B --> C[Protective mother (primary attachment figure) limited to supervised or no visits]; C --> D[ALWAYS Wrong]; D --> E[Outcomes based on flawed, biased practices];
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Custody awarded to alleged abuser

Protective mother (primary attachment figure) limited to supervised or no visits

ALWAYS Wrong

Outcomes based on flawed, biased practices

Who Supports Harmful Outcomes?

PAS (Parental
Alienation
Syndrome)

'Cottage
Industry' of GALs
& evaluators

Abuser rights
groups

Who Opposes Harmful Outcomes?

+
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AMERICAN
PSYCHIATRIC
ASSOCIATION



NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF JUVENILE & FAMILY
COURT JUDGES



CDC (ACE
RESEARCH)



SAUNDERS STUDY
(U.S. JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT)



AMERICAN HEART
ASSOCIATION



FEDERAL
KAYDEN'S LAW

Solutions

Consider

Consider both parents' behavior.

Explore

Explore more likely causes of a child's strained relationship

Analyze

Affects on the child, rather than the affect on the father's relationship

Solutions

Use

Use evidence-based approaches, not assumptions.

Avoid

Avoid Gender-Bias in Alienation assessments

Evaluate

Evaluate actions in full context.

Our New Book- Available Now

➤ **New Research**

➤ **Including our Chapter on Fair
Alienation Practices**

➤ **Can be Used to Create Needed Reforms**

PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE

Legal, Medical, Social, and Faith-Based
Strategies for Protecting Children and Families

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Questions?

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