

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](http://www.drvoch.de) and [www.pas-konferenz.de](http://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 PAEDIATRICS* (2018) 7.8: 820 - 822. (<https://www.ecronicon.com/ecpe/pdf/ECPE-07-00320.pdf>).

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

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.

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>

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](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, 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/>);

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 many therapists who are familiar with the subject and have completed suitable (further) training. In London, UK., 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 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)

Best regards

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