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Recurrent Misinformation Regarding Parental Alienation Theory

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Abstract

Misinformation regarding parental alienation theory has been published many times in journals and books since the 1980s. This article discusses a specific example of misinformation, i.e., variations of the statement. *Parental alienation theory assumes that the favored parent has caused parental alienation in the child simply because the child refuses to have a relationship with the rejected parent, without identifying alienating behaviors by the favored parent.* Another version of that false statement is the claim that parental alienation theory assumes that the favored parent has caused parental alienation *simply because the child unreasonably becomes alienated from the rejected parent.*

This article refers to "PA proponents" and "PTA-critics." Of course, PA proponents are not individuals who advocate on behalf of PA, but are professionals and researchers who support the concept of PA and the validity of PA theory. PTA-critics include a spectrum of writers, ranging from the extreme position of denying the reality of PA altogether to the moderate position of disagreeing about definitions, terminology, and interventions. For example, some PTA-critics may disagree with the statement that most cases of PA involve a pattern of alienating behaviors by the favored parent. Such PTA-critics may instead, *Note the Difference* say a primary causal agent cannot be identified, or have other, non-apparent disagreement appears to be simply a confusion of terminology, i.e., the difference between PA and contact refusal. PA proponents say that actual definition of severe PA includes misinformation of the child by somebody, usually the favored parent, while the definition of contact refusal includes many cases in which the child is caught in the middle.

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Keywords

Parental alienation | Parental alienation syndrome | Parental alienation theory | Parental alienation syndrome | Misinformation | Misinformation regarding PAT | Misinformation regarding parental alienation theory | Misinformation regarding parental alienation theory | Misinformation regarding parental alienation theory

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