

These repeated behaviours need to be seen as part of a 'coercive control' pattern which seeks to disrupt a child's innate attachment with a much-loved, safe parent.

Alienating parents:

- **Insist the child is able to think for themselves**, that the child is allowed their own voice and that they “know their own mind”.
- State that “of course he/she must have a relationship” with their other parent, **yet their actions do not reflect their words**, and no proactive and progressive management towards an equitable relationship with the other parent is ever apparent.
- **Will say that “these are my child’s own wishes and I can’t do anything”**; deflecting all responsibility to their children.
- **Allow, and tacitly encourage their child to dismiss or treat cruelly** their other parent and wider family without punishment/correction, in a way that would never be tolerated with the alienating parent's own family.
- **Will suggest they and their family are “doing all we can”** to reunify the child/children and parent. Yet, they are reluctant to engage with professionals who may resolve it.
- **Say they can’t 'force a child to go' or 'do something against their will'**, yet they never let the child miss homework, or other things the child might resist – the child avoiding their other parent is the only thing they are ever allowed to do.
- **Can be disproportionately anxious or fearful for the child**, and suggest the other parent is a risk to them. They may exaggerate health or other issues. They act in an overly controlling way towards the children.
- **Talk about “us” rather than “I” or “the children”, integrating themselves with the child/children.** They fail to talk about the child as an authentic individual with independence from themselves.
- **May suggest the victim parent is harassing “us” by asking for parenting time** too quickly and should go away, slow down, and wait until the children are ready, which never happens in reality, without a mandated court order which actually carries consequences.
- **May infer the non-resident parent is insensitive to the child for wanting to see them** and 'no longer understands' the child, because so much has changed that they have missed.