

Parental Alienation is Domestic Abuse



Parental alienation is psychological abuse and coercive control = Domestic abuse

Coercive control and emotional abuse are consistent features found in parental alienation, and perpetrated by both mothers and fathers. It is not, nor ever has been, a 'gender issue'.

The long-term damage caused by emotional abuse is increasingly recognised. Victims often highlight this aspect as the most damaging. Unseen yet deadly. A weapon which, when repeatedly deployed, can wear the victim down, making them question themselves, their capabilities, their worth and sometimes their very sanity.

It is accepted that **any form** of family violence is unacceptable and can never be tolerated by a compassionate and just society. That children within abusive households must also be protected from repeated conflict and chaos, in whatever form it manifests

The Serious Crime Act 2015 makes behaviour that is 'controlling or coercive' towards another person in an intimate or family relationship, punishable by a prison sentence of up to five years. In Scotland, the new Coercive Control Bill, includes former partners. An enlightened inclusion.

In domestic abuse cases, where psychological abuse and coercive control are at the heart, there is always a pattern, which makes it easy to identify. It is never a 'one off'.

In parental alienation cases – which is a form of domestic abuse – there is always a pattern. Victim mothers or fathers who have had their much-loved children ripped from their lives, report the exact same behaviours. The texts and communications they receive, and the behaviours they observe are interchangeable by name.

Many report turning up for arranged collection and their children are somewhere else entirely. One parent drove a round trip of 500 miles before being advised they had 'gone away'. Perfectly timed for when they were parked outside the house, for maximum impact.

Or suddenly their child is 'sick' and kept off school on scheduled collection days, when they were fine before and well recovered the day after. Or the special trips that were fun and full of laughter which get ruined the instant they are dropped off because the victim parent had committed the cardinal sin of feeding them beans on toast for tea.

Instant unpleasant drama which destroy happy childhood memories and create further anguish.

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