Professional Psychology: Research and Practice

Ten Parental Alienation Fallacies That Compromise Decisions in Court and in Therapy

 By Richard A. Warshak

False beliefs about the genesis of parental alienation and about appropriate remedies shape opinions and decisions that fail to meet children’s needs. The article Published in Professional Psychology: Research and Practice by **American Psychological Association®** in examines 10 mistaken assumptions:

1. Children never unreasonably reject the parent with whom they spend the most time,
2. Children never unreasonably reject mothers,
3. Each parent contributes equally to a child’s alienation,
4. Alienation is a child’s transient, short-lived response to the parents’ separation,
5. Rejecting a parent is a short-term healthy coping mechanism,
6. Young children living with an alienating parent need no intervention,
7. Alienated adolescents’ stated preferences should dominate custody decisions,
8. Children who appear to function well outside the family need no intervention,
9. Severely alienated children are best treated with traditional therapy techniques while living primarily with their favored parent,
10. Separating children from an alienating parent is traumatic. Reliance on false beliefs compromises investigations and undermines adequate consideration of alternative explanations for the causes of a child’s alienation. Most critical, fallacies about parental alienation shortchange children and parents by supporting outcomes that fail to provide effective relief to those who experience this problem

**Read the peer reviewed research paper here:** [**http://psycnet.apa.org/psycinfo/2015-27699-001/**](http://psycnet.apa.org/psycinfo/2015-27699-001/)

**CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THIS ARTICLE** *should be addressed to*

*Richard A. Warshak, 16970 Dallas Parkway, Suite 202, Dallas, TX 75248.*

*E-mail:* *doc@warshak.com*

**CITATION**

*Warshak, R. A. (2015, June 22). Ten Parental Alienation Fallacies That Compromise Decisions in Court and in Therapy. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice. Advance online publication.* [*http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pro0000031*](http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pro0000031)