



PAS Intervention

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OPPOSED to SB 365 and HB 405 in the present condition

There are serious issues with SB 365 and HB 405.

The following are issues with various areas of MD SB 365. As an expert and professional with over 35 years of experience related to Domestic Violence and 25 Specific to Parental Alienation, the following are concerns:

1. Section 9-109 D Ignores other experts that are material, probative and relevant such as experts in family dynamics, personality disorders, forensic science, suggestibility of children and others. False allegations do exist, and courts need knowledge about these considerations. In fact, back in 1998, when I spoke with several Family Court Supervisors related to abuse allegations, these people admitted that only 10% of the allegations made were true and that the false allegations were gumming up the works for the true victims of abuse. Thus, making it impossible for true victims to actually get help in a timely manner. The federal government agrees that 90% of allegations are false and unsubstantiated. The DV Advocates also admit that 73% of all allegations are unsubstantiated and false.

By way of example, how about the John Mast Case where the father was shot dead by his father-in-law who had been falsely convinced by his daughter and mother of his grandchildren that their father was no good, despite the courts finding otherwise and awarding the Father joint Custody. This has long term effects on the children knowing that their mother caused the death of their father through their maternal grandfather. Or how about the Rod McCall cases where the mother was found undeniably guilty of custodial interference and filing false allegations, and when she lost custody, she killed the child and herself.

2. The Training Section under Parent Child Bond needs to include unhealthy attachments extensive training specific to abandonment and attachment issues. When there is custodial interference, a child's abandonment and attachment security is affected in a highly dysfunctional format that leads to self-harm, Suicidal Ideation and other issues including but not limited to Gender Identity issues.
3. The training section under Section C needs to include including parent child contact issues undersections 2 and 3. When custodial interference, which is a felony federal and in all states is allowed to occur, it impedes with the natural child and parent relationship

by blocking contact. Even in an intact family where there is true abuse going on, the children's relationship is not severed with the offending parent. Instead, specialized therapy is put into place for the offending parent and for the children and the other parent.

4. Children do not have the emotional and mental maturity to decide to permanently remove one parent from their lives. In fact, the human brain does not stop growing until age 25 and does not stop maturing until about age 35. It is why our federal and state governments listened to the scientific research and studies and decided that children are not allowed to vote until they are 18, Drink or Smoke until they are 21 or rent a car until age 25. If the federal and state governments using scientific research and evidence, have made these laws. Then it stands to reason that children should not be allowed to make such a momentous decision as to remove one parent and their extended family from their lives.
5. Under Section D of the Training area for emotional abuse and coercive control, it needs to including parent child contact issues. Even inmates in the prisons have more visitation rights than when a parent deliberately impedes and coercively controls another person from having a healthy relationship with the children. Without specialized training to recognize the difference between coercive control and emotional abuse and a true verified substantiated need for protection, the children and parent need to be allowed to rekindle their relationship and in fact, someone who is not trained properly can cause more harm than good because they use the wrong form of Medical protocol. For example, Traditionally family therapy has been scientifically shown to not work in cases such as these, which includes Stockholm syndrome, Patti Hearst Syndrome, Debunking after a kidnapping and religious cults issue. Furthermore, custodial interference and coercive control are forms of brainwashing and thus the proper treatment protocol has been in place for decades to deal with these kinds of cases. To ignore decades of research and study, is to turn a blind eye to the truth.
6. Long-term and Short-term impacts needs to include psychological abuse and parent child contact issues. Just look at the Adam Lanza case with Sandy Hook. Adam was alienated from his father and older brother for years. This compounded his already fragile mental state and is believed to be the leading impetus for his anger and rage at his mother and all other children who had both parents in their lives. And what about the Michelle Neurater case where the father convinced his daughter to help him kill her mother.
7. In the section on who should be providing this, the following is dangerous: This is a myopic pool of instructors. Evaluators need training in many areas that these people do not have. Preference for a survivor also adds a built-in bias to give credence to false allegations.
8. Again, the evidence-based area is fraught with issues. For example, DV advocates say that the research for PA is weak. This is a false statement. There is over 35 years of evidenced based research on parental alienation. It is actually the DV advocates who are putting forth a false and misleading information based on research that has now been

proven to be false and unreliable as it cannot be replicated from the Meyers and Mercer's works.

9. Same with the section on Unsupported Research. The research on PA is beyond impeccable. In fact, it seems that this is referring to parental alienation and is trying to create a science denial of the last 35 years of research and study by some of the top scientists around the world. If we are to throw out the concept because they do not want to accept the science that is a huge issue. Much like cancer treatment, it might work for the majority of the patients prescribed a particular type of treatment for their particular form of cancer. It does not mean that we throw out the diagnosis or it's treatment because a small percentage did not respond well. It does not mean that because a small percentage could not be helped with this treatment, that we toss out the diagnosis or ban the treatment and remove it from the medical books. It does not mean that this form of cancer does not exist and that that this particular form of treatment is invalid.

10. As to the section IV 1 and 2, claims for the courts ability to recognize DV of children, it needs to include psychological. Parental Alienation is rarely related to physical abuse. It has, however, related to mental and psychological abuse. In fact, psychological abuse encompasses the following areas that are seen in all cases of parental alienation.
 - Rejecting (spurning)
 - Terrorizing
 - Corrupting
 - Denying essential stimulation, emotional responsiveness, or availability
 - Unreliable and inconsistent parenting
 - Mental health, medical, or educational neglect
 - Degrading/devaluing (spurning)
 - Isolating
 - Exploiting

Regards from a very concerned mental health expert,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan T. Kloth-Zanard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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