

Grandparent alienation is truly endemic in our society and globally. Many millions are suffering worldwide from the global phenomenon. This phenomenon is a global epidemic. Alienation is considered to be a severe form of child and elder abuse. The long-term effects of these estrangements are generally harmful for the grandchildren. They learn that attachments are temporary, and that families that were once loving and close can quickly become distant and angry. They're also presented with the model that estrangement is a reasonable way to manage family conflict.

Grandparents perform a really important role in the life of a grandchild. Studies regarding this relationship show the importance to a child's social and cognitive development, and for their safety and security in the world. Depriving a child of this, suddenly taking this away from a child is a form of severe child abuse. . These grands have been a positive powerful attachment figure to the child. If this attachment is taken away, it is traumatizing to the child, and makes their world a much less safer place. Alienation can also have long-term effects, including but not limited to: depression, alcohol/drug abuse, low self-esteem, problems with trusting, and a cycle of alienation that extends to their own children when they are parents.

I hope that as there is greater awareness of the impact of estrangement and alienation, that less families have to be faced with it. Currently in the US there are few ways to successfully remediate this situation once it occurs. This is because parents in the US have complete authority over determining whether or not a grandchild can have contact with a grandparent.