

I am writing to testify for all the grandparents that have been alienated from their children and grandchildren-a contemporary epidemic that has been proven by experts to be a form of dual abuse-both child abuse and elder abuse. There is no help or justice for grandparents and I have personally battled through the abuse, trauma and injustices for the past three years. I have been to 5 consults with reputable Family Law Practices and have been told the same story-Grandparents have no rights. What I didn't know is that we are also susceptible to abuse to include restraining orders with false accusations, Cease and Decease and threats using the children as pawns. We are traumatized and abused and have no protection on top of

the total loss of their grandchildren who in my case were very attached to me since they were rescued from their abusive parents that had a toxic marriage. Their Mother is mentally unstable with bi-polar and borderline personality disorder and has full custody of them three hours away in Ocean City, Md. I have been in therapy, support groups and suffer with anxiety and panic disorder due to this abuse. My counselor has included a letter of my continual abuse and minister has included a letter of my mental demise. My daughter has blocked me on her phone and email and I have no contact with her or my grandchildren in any form(not even to send a card)-they are returned with REFUSED written in black letters. I am very concerned

about my grandchildren and the mental abuse they are enduring. I have tried to reach out to her with professional mediator three times and send her monthly notes which are sent back and am afraid to make a visit for fear of a restraining order as she did that in the past. It was dropped and shielded but she uses that as a threat since I teach at a college and that is not something I want on my record. I live in fear that she will villainize me to ruin my career which is the single thing that holds me together. She has even planted moles in places to spy on me in the past. I know my grandchildren still love me because we had such a bond from early on but I also know their Mother is continually Brainwashing them and they are in constant conflict. The children visit

their Father in Baltimore twice monthly and their Father wants me to see them but he has been threatened if he lets them see me that she will lie and do whatever it takes to put him put in jail. He has a misdemeanor due to Domestic Violence and is on probation so is fearful of her. She doesn't keep her visitation schedule and is in contempt of court but he is fearful and won't report it. Two full families are terrified of her and she has also aliented herself and the children from her 96 year old Grandmother that she was very close to. The abuse is pervasive and it doesn't end. I have done nothing to deserve this-I was a single parent to her and worked hard to compensate for her father that abandoned her at 6 months old.

This is particularly upsetting since my entire career has been in social work, education and advocacy for children of neglect as well as Domestic Violence. I have helped many children and families but have no rights to help myself and my grandchildren. There is no protection for us as well since everyone in two full families as well as my friends are terrified of my daughter. Counselors have warned me that I am never safe. If my daughter had a visible disease there might be help but the stigma of her mental illness and how it is abusive is not recognized.

“According to the leading international experts in alienation, grandparent cut off is considered to be a severe form of child abuse and elder abuse . Grandparents perform a really important role in the life of

a grandchild, if not more important than those with their own parents. 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 and taking this away from is a form of SEVERE child abuse. It is traumatizing and their world a much less safe place. 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 whether or not the grandparent can have contact. If parental neglect can and should be considered a form of child abuse, certainly a parent's decision to end a loving and attached relationship between a

grandparent and grandchild should be considered a form of child abuse.” This a quote from a leading expert in Grandparent Alienation-Joshua Coleman, PHD

Alienated Children suffer from many problems later in life often becoming depressed, anxious, self injurious, high risk of drug and alcohol abuse, mood disorders, low self esteem, trust issues and dysfunctional relationships. My Granddaughter has a tic in both of her eyes and is very anxious. She is highly nervous and has ADD. My Grandson has mood swings and anger issues and very poor coping skills.

Alienated Grandparents experience trauma, de-regulation of their nervous system, anxiety and high stress which is debilitating to an aging immune system. They are in a

dark hole. I personally have experienced panic/anxiety disorder and extreme high stress and nervousness as well as a complete lack of trust-None of which I had experienced before.

It is time to stop this Dual Abuse which is the beginning of the loss of the extended family. When you erase family from children's lives you pay for it. This is a serious problem in our society and it is time for reform.