

Dear Task Force on Fatherhood Members,

I hope the Task Force on Fatherhood will address in its final report the negative impact that Parental Alienation Syndrome and Malicious Mother Syndrome can have on the relationship many children of divorce have with their fathers. I suspect these syndromes impact thousands of fathers in Connecticut.

The following defines Parental Alienation Syndrome as shown on the website, paskids.com:

"The parental alienation syndrome (PAS) is a disorder that arises primarily in the context of child-custody disputes. Its primary manifestation is the child's campaign of denigration against a parent, a campaign that has no justification. It results from the combination of a programming (brainwashing) parent's indoctrinations and the child's own contributions to the vilification of the target parent."

The Journal of Family Violence, on its website, <http://www.fact.on.ca/Info/pas/turkat95.htm> explains that Divorce-Related Malicious Mother Syndrome (MMS) encompasses four major criteria, as follows:

1. A mother who unjustifiably punishes her divorcing or divorced husband by:
 - a. Attempting to alienate their mutual children from the father
 - b. Involving others in malicious actions against the father
 - c. Engaging in excessive litigation
2. The mother specifically attempts to deny her child (ren)
 - a. Regular uninterrupted visitation with the father
 - b. Uninhibited telephone access to the father
 - c. Paternal participation in the child(ren)'s school life and extracurricular activities
3. The pattern is pervasive and includes malicious acts towards the husband including:
 - a. Lying to the children
 - b. Lying to others
 - c. Violations of law
4. The disorder is not specifically due to another mental disorder, although a separate mental disorder may co-exist.

I would appreciate your reply confirming your understanding.

Sincerely,

David Kelman West Hartford, CT

Monday, December 08, 2008 America Online: Saveourkidsfirst