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Children Held Hostage



Synopsis

This is the first book to provide objective methods for establishing that a child has been brainwashed by one parent against another. It is based on a ten-year study of 700 cases in the authors' counseling and evaluative work with children of divorced couples.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This review is a response to user Red Carnation's one-star review of this book from August 2013, which began its jump off the rails with the statement, "Children Held Hostage postures as an academic book. The first clue that it is not should be the publisher, The American Bar Association." Lawyer books are absurdly expensive by long and hallowed tradition, and this is undoubtedly a book for lawyers (and others involved in the court system as a function of their job-roles). The first clue should be the publisher: the American Bar Association. The ABA is as respectable a publisher of legal-practice treatises as Guilford Press is of the kind of book Red Carnation might have been hoping for. This is an inherently anecdote-based study of a self-selecting sample that has to be heavily anonymized, because of the issues of confidentiality, legal privilege, etc. But, contrary to what one might infer from Red Carnation's review, it makes good use of the peer-reviewed literature (the references are footnoted, and the works-cited section can be found on pp. 475 - 507). As a study about what people bring before their lawyers, the courts, social workers, mental-health professionals and others whose work intersects with the family courts; and what those lawyers, courts, social workers, mental-health professionals, and others might infer is going on behind the scenes when they're trying to figure out what to ask; this study is first rate. Per

the disclaimer in the first edition's (1991) colophon: "Information in this text is based upon actual cases. Names, places, and other identifying information, however, have been modified to prevent exact identification. Some scenarios are a blend of cases with similar characteristics.

This American Bar Association (ABA) "Section of Family Law" book is the "jewel in the crown" of the currently limited - but rapidly expanding - literature about parents who alienate a child or children against another parent. Both parents are, typically, the child's birth parents. On its publication date (1991), this book's insights were based on research involving (1) the largest group of research subjects (700), selected from a research pool of 1,000; and (2) the greatest length of research time (up to 12 years); of of any research study ever conducted in this fledgling area. This authoritative research status, of research size and duration, probably continues to this day. When I first read CHILDREN HELD HOSTAGE: DEALING WITH PROGRAMMED AND BRAINWASHED CHILDREN, I did not know this book's subject is popularly known by the label - and short-hand term - "parental alienation syndrome," a term coined by Dr. Richard A. Garner. Dr. Garner, a child psychiatrist, who recognized this problem in his private practice, and became a prolific author in publicizing this "family" problem. Unfortunately, particularly for the psychological "best interests" of alienated children, the "syndrome" component of Dr. Garner's "parental alienation syndrome" label has become rallying point of certain feminist advocates, whose polemics attack application of "syndrome" to this child alienation problem, on the grounds that child alienation problems do not qualify as a medical "syndrome." This ridiculously specious argument attempts to totally deflect attention from - and to completely discredit - the nature and existence of this extremely disturbing child alienation problem, which is harmful not only to children, but also to "targeted" or "rejected" parents.

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