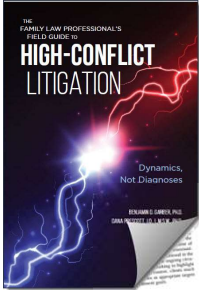




Dynamics
not diagnoses

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2



We're beginning to be
able to catalogue
family dynamics.

Garber, B.D., Prescott, D., and Mutchay, C. (2022). The family law professional's field guide to high-conflict litigation: Dynamics, not diagnoses. American Bar Association.

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3

1. Triangulation

2. The scapegoated child

3. The chameleon child

4. Enmeshment

5. Estrangement

6. Alienation

a) Adulthoodification

b) Parentification

c) Infantilization

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Triangulation

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Triangulation describes one or more adults inviting or requiring a child to play a role in an adult matter.

FUNCTIONAL TRIANGULATION
As when immigrants rely on their child to translate (i.e., “culture broker”) can have benefits for the child.

EMOTIONAL TRIANGULATION
As when warring parents enlist their child in their battles is harmful to the child.

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A child becomes triangulated amidst his parent’s conflict when one or both expose him to their conflict and/or ask him to play a role in that conflict.

Power and control ↑

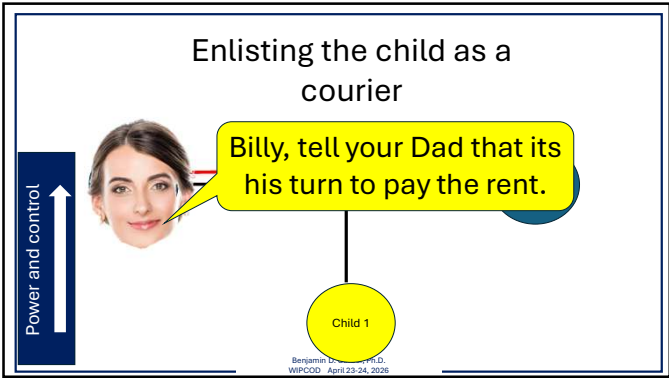
Parent A

Parent B

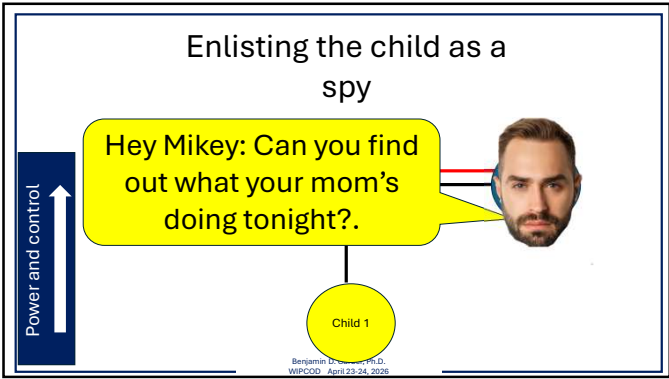
Child 1

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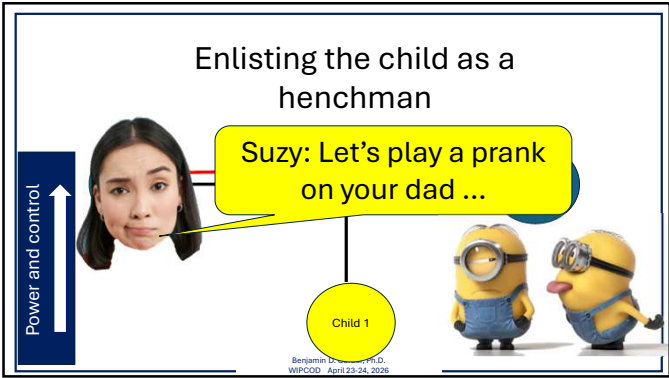
7



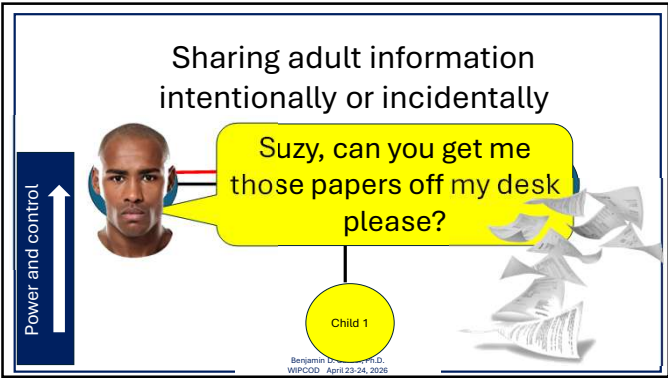
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9



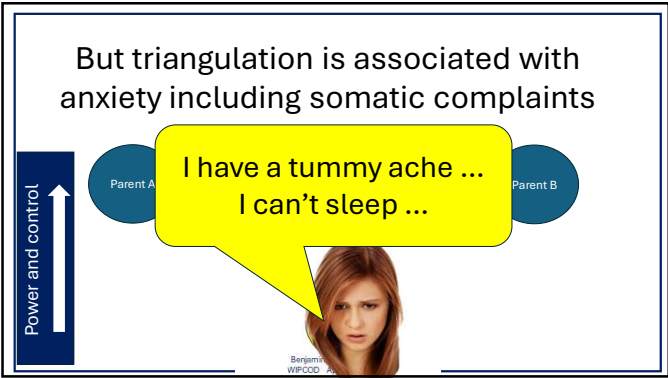
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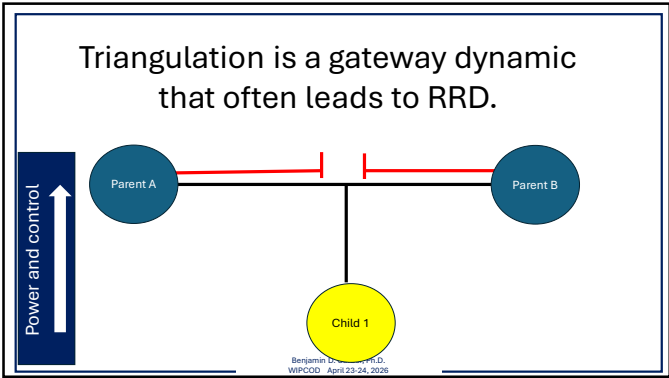
11



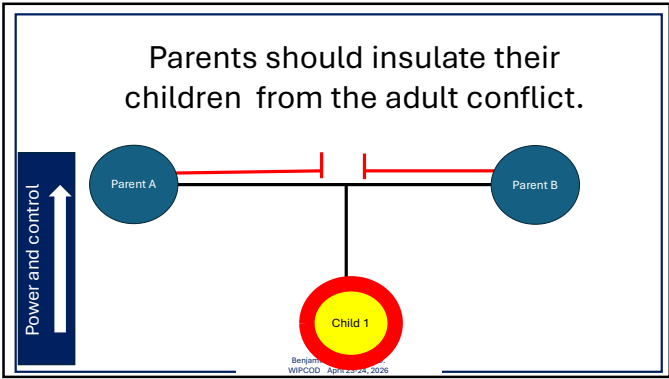
12



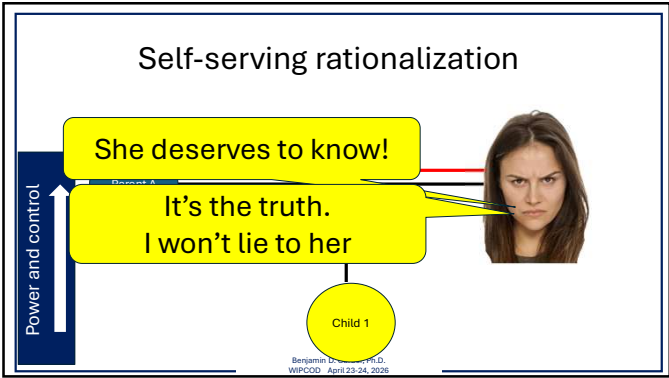
13



14



15



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The Scapegoated Child

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Parent A associates the child with Parent B
and rejects the child

Power and control ↑

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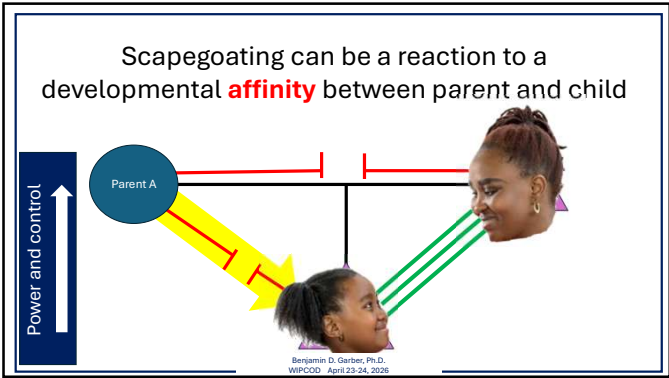
18

Scapegoating may be
intentional or unconscious

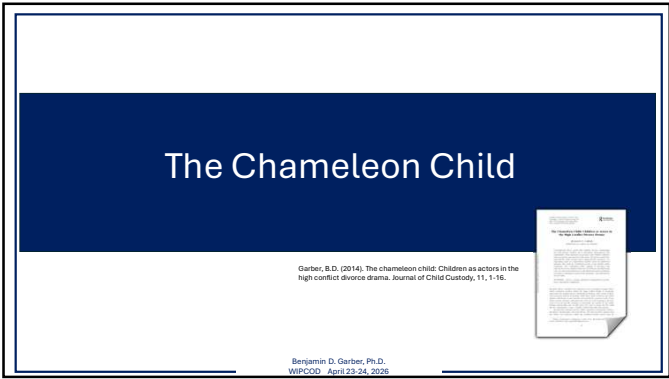
Power and control ↑

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20



21

The chameleon child

- ✓ Adaptation is a natural and necessary skill.
- ✓ Autonomy grows out of healthy conflict as a process of differentiation
- ✓ When children believe that **anger ends love**, healthy parent-child conflict becomes distorted and even forbidden
- ✓ Many children **avoid conflict** by changing their colors to suit each parent's emotional environment
- ✓ This short-term strategy can **cost the child identity**

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Many triangulated kids
cope by becoming
emotional chameleons.

They change
what they say
and do
to fit
their social
environment.



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"You sort of change, depending what house you're at. I don't know about other people, but I find that I'm a different person at a different house. 'Cause the different environment and . . . my parents sort of differently . . . I do sort of things. It is difficult to explain. So I adapt to my environment, I suppose. I mean, my core personality doesn't change, I suppose. But the way I behave does..."

Quoting a 16 year old girl involved in her parents' custody litigation :
Smart, C. (2002). From children's shoes to children's voices. Family Court Review, 40, 297-306.

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Chameleon-like
adaptation
works in the moment,
but can further
divide parents
and
undermine
the child's identity.



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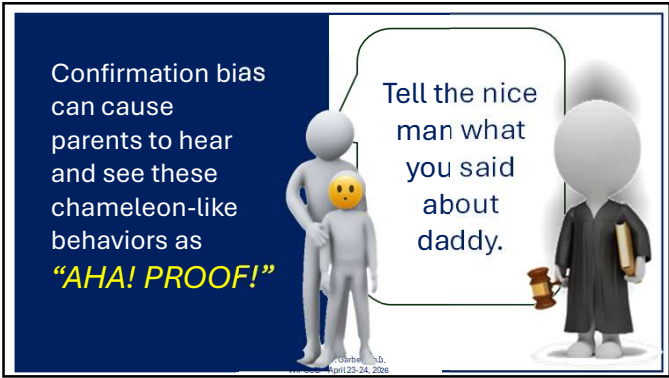
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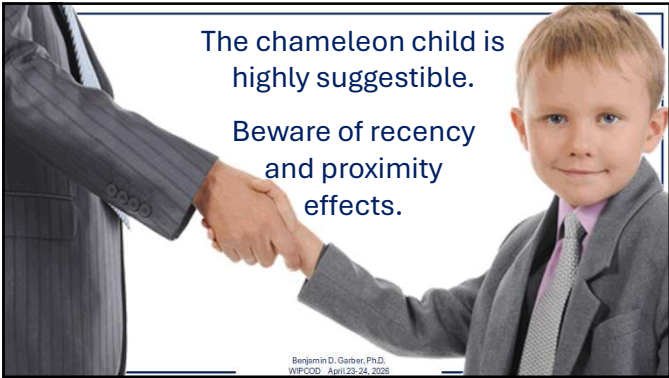
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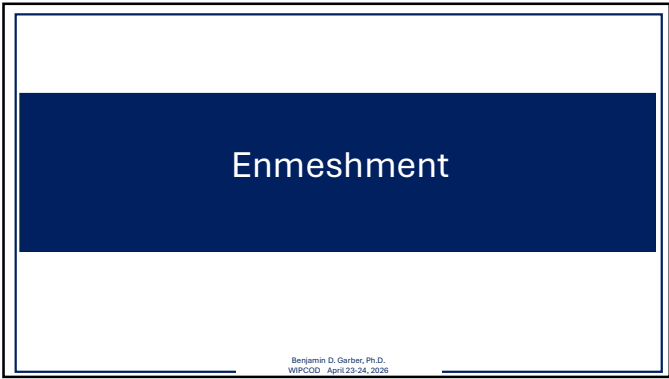
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28



29



30



31

“Seven signs that you grew up with emotionally immature parents...”

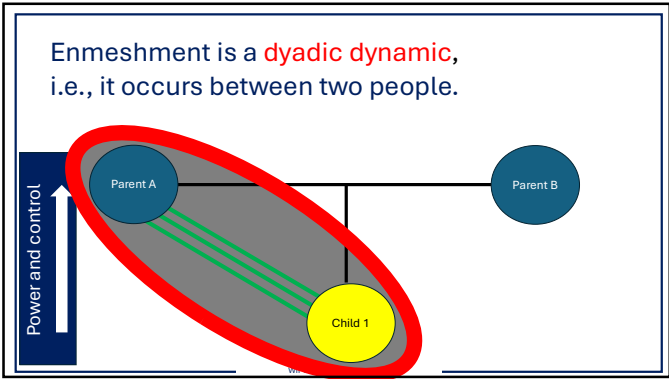


1. They emotionally dump on their children
2. They possess a lack of empathy
3. They struggle with boundaries
- 4. They rely on their kids for emotional support**
5. They use guilt and the silent treatment as a weapon
6. They often have inconsistent behavior and reactions
7. They don't respect your individuality

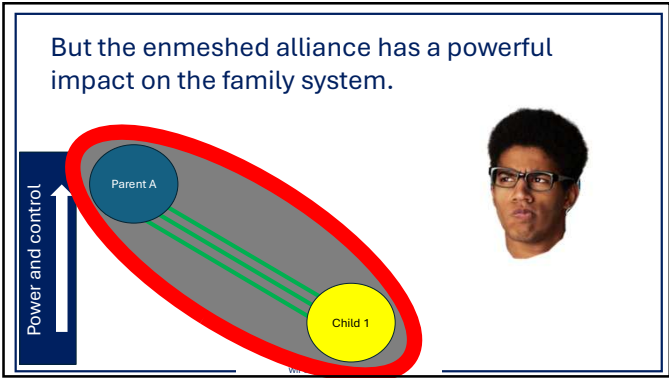
Wilson, J. 06.22.2024
Huffington Post
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/signs-emotionally-immature-parents_L65eb67a3e4b05ec1cc0de7e0

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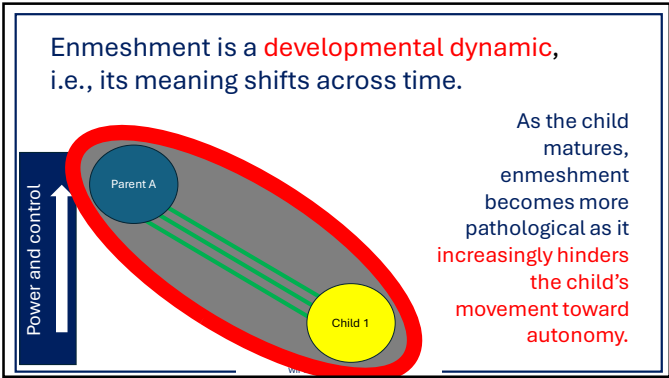
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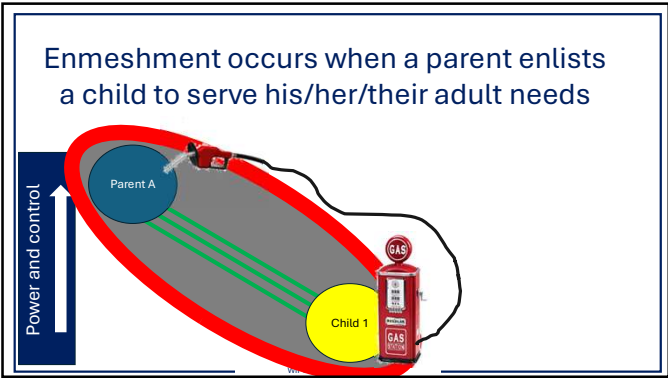
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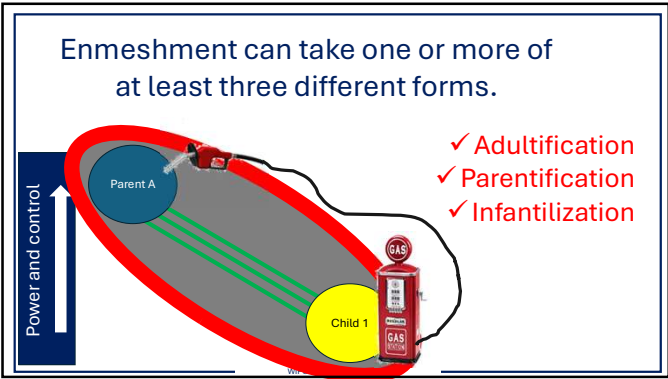
36



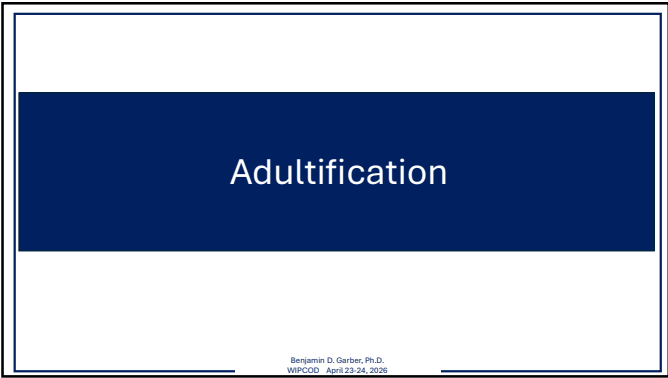
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38



39



40

Adultification occurs when a parent prematurely promotes a child to become a peer, ally, or friend.

The diagram shows a grey oval containing a blue circle labeled 'Parent' and a yellow circle labeled 'Child 1'. They are connected by three horizontal green lines. A red gas pump nozzle is connected to the 'Parent' circle. To the right of the oval is a red gas pump with a nozzle. A woman's face is shown next to the pump. A vertical blue bar on the left is labeled 'Power and control'. At the bottom, small text reads 'Benjamin D. Garber, PhD, WPCOD April 23-24, 2028'.

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The adultified child feels special.

He is at risk for withdrawing from age-appropriate activities in favor of basking in the parent's attention.

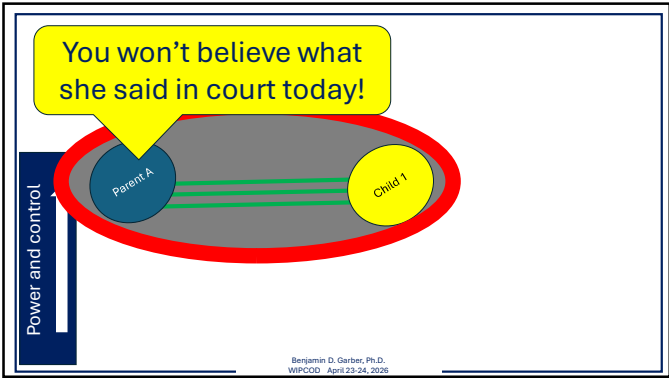
A photograph of a man and a young boy smiling and holding up two glasses of beer in a toast. Small text at the bottom reads 'Benjamin D. Garber, PhD, WPCOD April 23-24, 2028'.

42

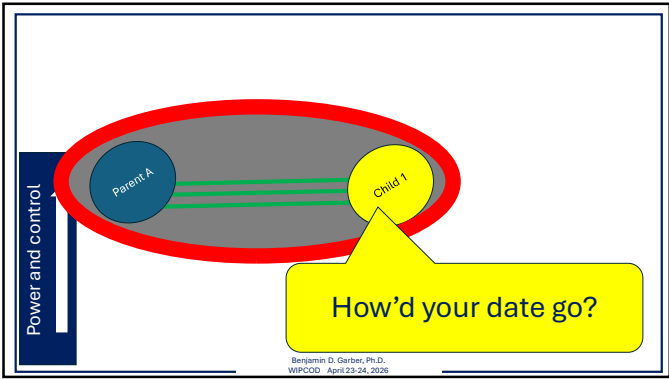
Is the adultified bond a cause of or a reaction to the adult schism?

The diagram shows a grey oval containing a blue circle labeled 'Parent A' and a yellow circle labeled 'Child 1'. They are connected by three horizontal green lines. A red gas pump nozzle is connected to the 'Parent A' circle. To the right of the oval is a man's face with a distressed expression. A vertical blue bar on the left is labeled 'Power and control'. Below the oval, text reads '(probably both and more)'. At the bottom, small text reads 'Benjamin D. Garber, PhD, WPCOD April 23-24, 2028'.

43



44



45

Adultification has been associated with:

- **Poverty**
Burton, Linda (2007). Childhood adultification in economically disadvantaged families: A conceptual model. *Family Relations*, 56, 329-345.
- **Victims of intimate partner violence**
Stephens, D. L. (1999). Battered women's views of their children. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 14, 731-746.
- **Immigrant families** (esp re: language)
Puig, M. E. (2002). The adultification of refugee children: Implications for cross-cultural social work practice. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 5, 85-95.
Walsh, S., Shulman, S., Bar-On, Z., & Tsor, A. (2006). The role of parentification and family climate in adaptation among immigrant adolescents in Israel. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 16, 321-350.

Instrumental adultification
can have benefits.

Emotional adultification
is harmful to the child.

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The adultified child

- **Typically first-born or only-born**
Burnett, G., Jones, R. A., Blawie, N. G., & Ross, L. T. (2006). Family unpredictability, parental alcoholism, and the development of parentification. *American Journal of Family Therapy*, 34, 181-189.
- **Verbally and/or socially precocious/emotionally immature**
Garber, Benjamin D. (2009). *Developmental psychology for family law professionals*. New York: Springer.
- **Proudly embraces the new role**
Garber, B.D. (2009). *Developmental psychology for family law professionals*. New York: Springer.
- **Is at high risk for, "... anxiety, hyper-organization, poor relations with others, and poor educational and career achievement."**
Burton, Linda (2007). Childhood adultification in economically disadvantaged families: A conceptual model. *Family Relations*, 56, 329-345.
- **Is at risk for sexual abuse?**



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Adultification



"Mean Girls"

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Parentification

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“The child grew up parentified, that is,
he essentially functioned as
defendant’s parent
rather than the other way around
and he placed her needs before his own.”

NJ Division of Child Protection & Permanency v. Y.Z., 2015 WL 1237829 (NJ Superior Ct App Div March 19, 2015)

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The diagram illustrates the concept of parentification. On the left, a vertical blue bar is labeled 'Power and control'. A red circle encloses 'Child 1' (a yellow circle) and 'Parent A' (a blue circle). A red gas pump icon with a hose is connected to 'Parent A'. A grey oval shape, representing a parent, is shown with 'Child 1' (yellow circle) inside it. Green lines connect 'Child 1' in the red circle to 'Child 1' in the grey oval. Text on the right explains that parentification occurs when an adult prematurely promotes a child to serve as their caregiver.

Power and control

Child 1

Parent A

Child 1

Parentification occurs when an adult prematurely promotes a child to serve as his or her caregiver.

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This diagram builds on the previous one, showing a parentified child's potential resistance. It includes the 'Power and control' bar, the red circle with 'Child 1' and 'Parent A', and the gas pump. A yellow speech bubble from 'Child 1' asks, 'Did you take your meds today?'. To the right, text explains that the parentified child may resist contact with Parent B out of fear of what will happen to Parent A while they are apart.

Power and control

Child 1

Parent A

Did you take your meds today?

The parentified child may resist contact with Parent B for fear of what will happen to Parent A while they're apart

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Power and control

Child 1

Parent A

I'll try not to drink while you're with your mom.



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Parentification

Vaileau, P. M., Raymond, M. B., & Horton, C. B. (1995). Parentification and caretaker syndrome: An empirical investigation. *Family Therapy*, 22, 157-164.

- Daughters are more likely to be parentified than sons
Jacobvitz, D., Riggs, S., & Johnson, E. (1999). Cross-sex and same-sex family alliances: Immediate and long-term effects on sons and daughters. In N. D. Chase (Ed.), *Burdened children: Theory, research, and treatment of parentification* (pp. 34-55). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Mothers are more likely to parentify than fathers
Peris, T. S., & Emery, R. E. (2005). Redefining the parent-child relationship following divorce: Examining the risk for boundary dissolution. *Journal of Emotional Abuse*, 5(4), 169-189.
Peris, T.S.; Glickauf-Hughes, M.C.; Cummings, E.M.; & Emery, R.E. (2008). Marital conflict and support seeking by parents in adolescence: Empirical support for the parentification construct. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 22(4), 633-642.
- Parents who report that their parents were not adequately nurturing
Wells, M., Glickauf-Hughes, C., & Jones, R. 1999. Codependency: A grass roots construct's relationship to shame-proneness, low self-esteem, and childhood parentification. *American Journal of Family Therapy*, 27: 63-71.
- Parents who find their adult partners inadequately nurturing
Boyd-Frostlin, N. (1989). *Black families in therapy: A multigenerational approach*. New York: Guilford Press.

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54

Parentification has been associated with:

- Immigrant families
Ozobishin, Olga and Kurman, Jenny (2009). Parent-child role reversal and psychological adjustment among immigrant youth in Israel. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 23(3), 406-415.
- Impoverished families
McMahon, T. J., & Luthar, S. S. (2007). Defining characteristics and potential consequences of caretaking burden among children living in poverty. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 77, 267-281.
- Dual income families
Grolman, E.A. & Swedes, G. (1986). *The working parent dilemma*. Boston: Beacon.
- Adult chronic and critical illness
Duryea, M. M. (2007). Mothers with chronic physical illness and the parentification of their children. Retrieved 12.21.2009 from https://repository.umn.edu/itemspace/bitstream/1928/3606/1/Duryea_Dissertation.pdf
Tompkins, T. L. (2007). Parentification and maternal HIV infection: Beneficial role or pathological burden? *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 16, 113-125.
- Substance dependent parent
Wells, M., Glickauf-Hughes, C., & Jones, R. 1999. Codependency: A grass roots construct's relationship to shame-proneness, low self-esteem, and childhood parentification. *American Journal of Family Therapy*, 27: 63-71.
- Characterological dysfunction
Fitzgerald, Monica M.; Schneider, Renee A.; Salstrom, Seoka; Zinzow, Heidi M.; Jackson, Joan & Fossel, Rebecca V. (2008). Child sexual abuse, early family risk, and childhood parentification: Pathways to current psychosocial adjustment. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 22(2), 320-324.



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“Parentified children often suffer from
depression, suicidal feelings, shame, excessive
guilt, unrelenting worry, social isolation, and
other internalizing symptoms, such as
psychosomatic problems ...
Parentification during a youngster’s formative
years is often the prologue to an adult life
characterized by interpersonal distrust ...
an inability to function independently,
and –perpetuating the cycle-
a tendency to misuse parental authority.”

Jurkovic, G. (1997), *Lost childhood: The plight of the parentified child*.
New York: Brunner/Mazel, p. xiv

depression

Suicidal feelings

shame

guilt

worry

isolation

somaticizing

distrust

dependence

Misuse parental
authority

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Parentified child



Facebook/Cherish Sherry

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Infantilization

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The infantilizing caregiver

- Cannot distinguish the child's feelings from his/her own
- May be impressive when child is needy, e.g., newborn, ill or injured
 - Curry, M. M. (2007). Mothers with chronic physical illness and the parentification of their children.
- Is likely to isolate the child (e.g., home schooling), be overprotective, may be paranoid or psychotic
- **Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another?** (fka., Munchausen's By Proxy)
 - Kinschler, R., & Ayoub, C. C. (2000). Legal aspects of Munchausen by proxy. In R. M. Reese (ed.), *Treatment of child abuse*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
 - Lindahl, Mary W. (2009). Beyond Munchausen by Proxy: A Proposed Conceptualization for Cases of Recurring, Unsubstantiated Sexual Abuse Allegations. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 18(2), 206-220.

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Estrangement
is adaptive. It's
a reasonable
reaction to an
aversive event.



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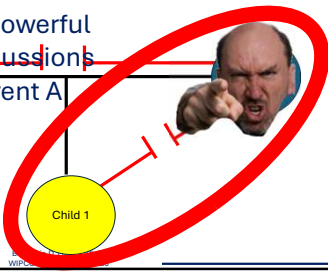
65

Estrangement is a **dyadic dynamic**.
It occurs exclusively between Parent B and the child.

Power and control
↑



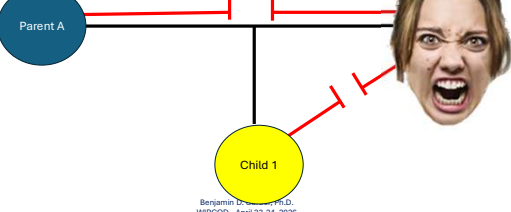
With powerful
repercussions
for Parent A



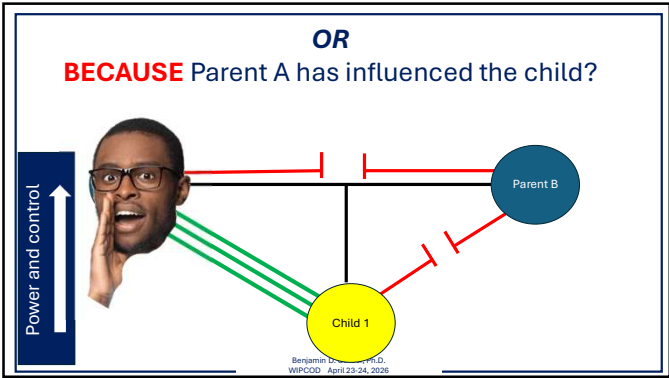
66

Do Parent A and child reject Parent B
BECAUSE both have experienced Parent B as aversive?

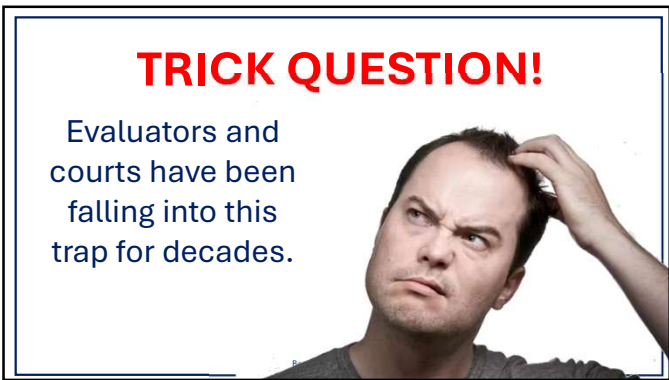
Power and control
↑



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69



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Understanding a family’s
dynamics is
not a binary
either/or
process.

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This is my chief concern about the
“Five Factor Model”

Bernet, W., & Greenhill, L. L. (2022). The Five-Factor Model for the diagnosis of parental alienation.
Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 61(5), 591–594.



Garber, B.D. & Simon, R.A. (2024) Looking Beyond the Sorting Hat: Deconstructing the “Five Factor Model” of Alienation, Family Transitions, DOI: 10.1080/19502556.2023.2262359



Garber, B.D. & Simon, R.A. (2024) Moving Towards Consensus: Joining Bernet and Baker, Emery, and Griffin to better understand the dynamics of Parent-Child Contact Problems (PCCP), Family Transitions.

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Alienation

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AFCC Texas Annual Conference

24

**The child’s experience of
Parent A’s negative words,
actions, and/or expressed emotions
about Parent B
that undermine
the child’s security with Parent B.**

Garber, B.D. (2004). Parental alienation in light of attachment theory: Consideration of the broader implications for child development, clinical practice and forensic process. Journal of Child Custody, 1(4), 49-76.

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**Alienation is a
systemic dynamic:**
The child’s experience of one
dyad impacts the child’s
experience of another.

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**Your Mom is such a
\$%^&*!!**

Power and control

Parent B

Child 1

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Is this an example of:

(a) Alienation?

(b) Adultification?

(c) Enmeshment?

(d) Triangulation?

(e) All of the above?

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WILEYINK@EARTHINK.NET
GOLDMANS.COM / NONINQUISITIVE

78

The Five Factor Model

Joshi, A. (2021). Litigating Parental Alienation. American Bar Association: Washington D.C

Bernet, W. (2020). The Five-Factor Model for the Diagnosis of Parental Alienation. Feedback 6 (Summer): 3-15.

Bernet, W., & Greenhill, L. L. (2022). The Five-Factor Model for the diagnosis of parental alienation. Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 61(5), 591-594.

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The Five Factor Model

IF...

1. The Child Manifests Contact Resistance or Refusal, i.e., Avoids a Relationship with one of the Parents, AND

2. The Presence of a Prior Positive Relationship Between the Child and the Rejected Parent, AND

3. The Absence of Abuse, Neglect, or Seriously Deficient Parenting on the Part of the Rejected Parent, AND

4. The Use of Multiple Alienating Behaviors on the Part of the Favored Parent, AND

5. The Child Exhibits Many of the Eight Behavioral Manifestations of Alienation.

... THEN alienation

Bernet and Greenhill (2022)

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1. The Child Manifests Contact Resistance or Refusal, i.e., Avoids a Relationship with one of the Parents



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The ambiguity of
“resist,” “refuse” and “avoidance”:

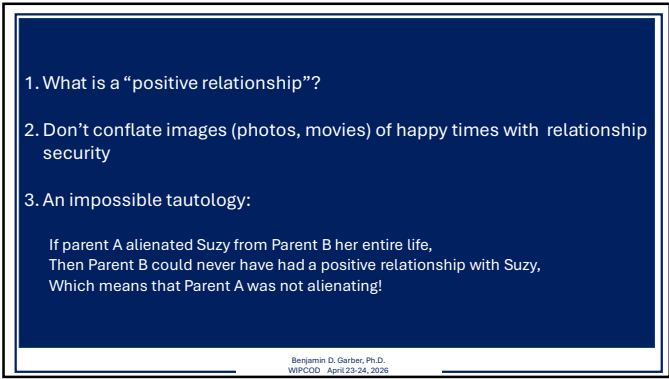
“This might involve complete contact refusal, or it might involve agreeing to contact but resisting/refusing attempts on the part of the parent for communication, affection, and interaction. In these situations, the child may be physically present but is not emotionally present.”

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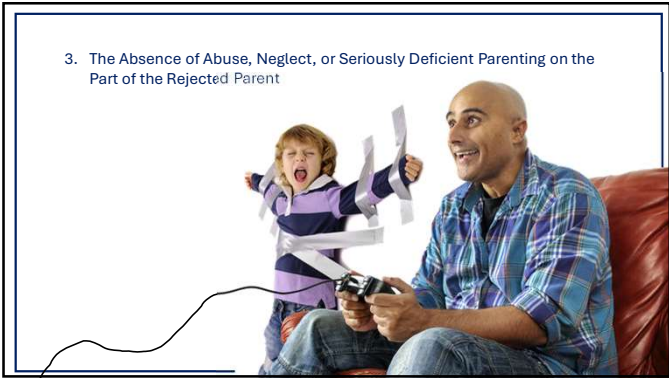
82



83



84



85

1. Define “Abuse” and “Neglect”? Jurisdictions vary.

2. There is no objective measure of what is and is not scary (e.g., children with prior trauma)

3. 5FM ignores vicarious trauma (e.g., child witness IPV)

4. Half-life of child abuse? When does protective gatekeeping become alienation?

5. CPS has HUGE error rates (false positives and false negatives)

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“... the median estimated false positive and false negative error rates were 0.18 and 0.36, respectively”

Herman, S., & Freitas, T. R. (2016). Error rates in forensic child sexual abuse evaluations. *Psychological Injury and Law*, 3(2), 133-147.

See also: Hershkowitz, I., Fisher, S., Lamb, M. E., & Horowitz, D. (2007). Improving credibility assessment in child sexual abuse allegations: The role of the NICHD investigative interview protocol. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 31, 99-110.

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4. The Use of Multiple Alienating Behaviors on the Part of the Favored Parent



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Factor 4: Seventeen adult strategies of alienation

1. Bad mouthing

2. Limiting contact

3. Interfering with communication

4. Interfering with symbolic communication

5. [Contingent] withdrawal of love

6. Telling the child that the parent is dangerous

7. Forcing the child to chose

8. Telling the child that the parent does not love him/her/them

9. Confiding in the child

10. Forcing the child to reject the parent

11. Asking the child to keep secrets from the parent

12. Confiding in the child

13. Referring to the parent by his/her/their first name

14. Referring to step-parent as "Mom" or "Dad"

15. Withholding medical, academic, and other important data from the parent

16. Changing the child's name to remove association with the parent

17. Cultivating dependency/undermining the parent's authority

Baker, Amy J. L. and Darnall, Douglas(2006), Behaviors and Strategies Employed in Parental Alienation. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*,45:1,97-124

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5. The Child Exhibits Many of the Eight Behavioral Manifestations of Alienation.



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Factor 5: Eight manifestations of alienation in children

1. Campaign of denigration

2. Weak, frivolous or absurd rationalizations for the denigration or deprecation

3. Lack of ambivalence

4. The in dependent thinker phenomenon

5. Cruelty toward the alienated parent with no remorse or guilt

6. Reflexive support of the alienated parent

7. Presence of borrowed scenarios

8. Spread of animosity to the friends and/or extended family of the alienated parent

Amy J. L. Baker and S. Richard Sauber, editors, Working with Alienated Children and Families: A Clinical Guidebook (New York: Routledge, 2013), 62.

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1. Studies alleging to validate these variables are cross-sectional and retrospective, contaminated by participant self-selection and investigator bias.

2. We don't know if or how any of these variables proactively might contribute to resist/refuse “polarized” outcomes.

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Retrospective study

Time

Aha! ALL PCCP cases begin with Behavior A

Behavior A

PCCP

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Prospective (longitudinal) study

Time

Behavior A is SOMETIMES associated with PCCP

Behavior A

Healthy outcomes?

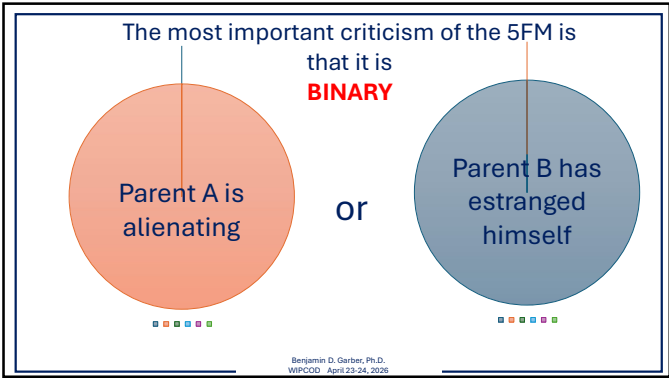
PCCP

Healthy outcomes?

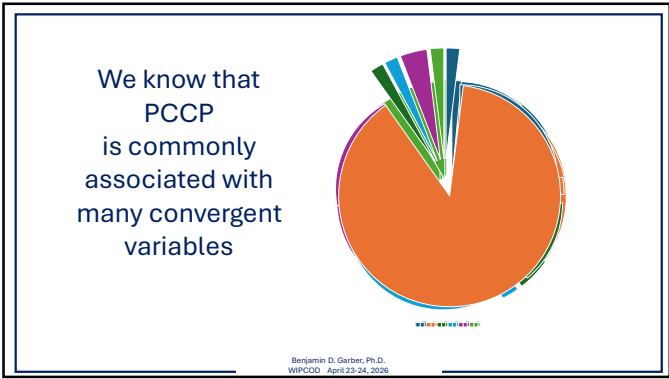
Healthy outcomes?

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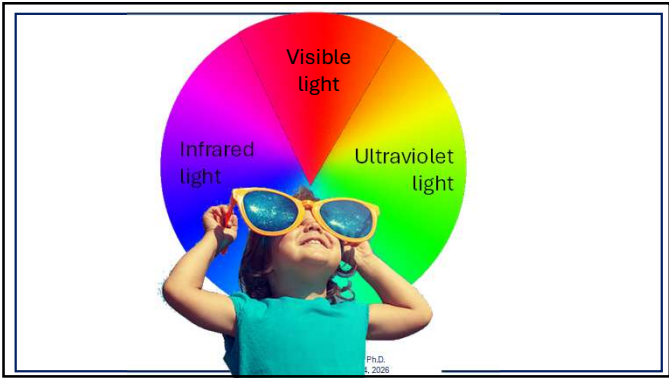
94



95



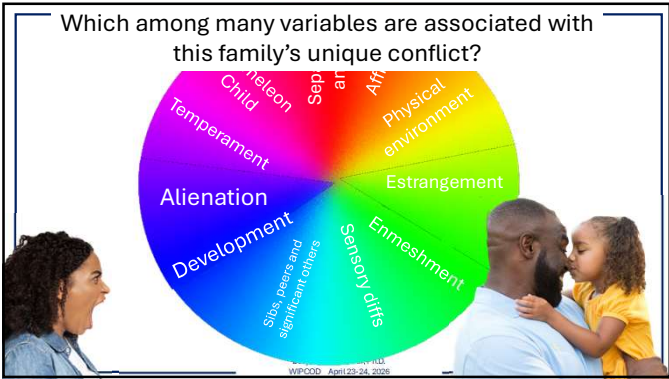
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RRD is associated with
“... a multi-factor explanation of children's rejection of a parent with both the aligned and rejected parents contributing to the problem, together with role reversal in parent-child relationships”

Johnston, J. R., Walters, M. G., & Olesen, N. W. (2006). Is it alienating parenting, role reversal, or child abuse? A study of children's rejection of a parent in child custody disputes. Journal of Emotional Abuse, 5(4), 191-218.

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101

An ecological perspective examines the full spectrum of relationship pressures and practical variables that mutually contribute to a unique child’s specific circumstance.



Garber, B.D. (2019). Sherlock Holmes and the case of resist/refuse dynamics: Confirmatory bias and abductive inference in family law. Family Court Review, 58 (2), 386-402.

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Dynamics
not diagnoses

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Ethics and boundaries

E.5.d. Refraining From Diagnosis

Counselors may refrain from making and/or reporting a diagnosis if they believe that it would cause harm to the client or others. Counselors carefully consider both the positive and negative implications of a diagnosis.

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Chrome:
extension://swldmnmmbpajgicwfhmhuuq/https://www.familylawconsulting.org/docs/ethics-and-boundaries-library/ethics2014-aca-code-of-ethics.pdf

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Expect multiple co-occurring dynamics

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⁶⁴... uncomplicated or pure cases of alienation in which neither estrangement nor enmeshment were identified as playing a significant role, were relatively infrequent....⁶⁹

Friedlander, S., & Walters, M. (2010). When a child rejects a parent: Tailoring the intervention to fit the problem. *Family Court Review*, 48(1), 98-111.

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107

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Some become emotional

Some pick

Some act to

Some become a parent's

Some are pressured by one

Most struggle to adapt to multiple combined pressures

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Which tend to become black or white
-good guy v. bad guy-
through the lens of confirmation bias
and the courts

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Confirmation bias



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Which
worsens
adult
conflict.



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Which
increases
the
pressure
on the
child.



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Who is just
trying to adapt
to get her basic
needs met

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A rubric useful for organizing
evaluation of PCCP

Garber, B.D. (2024). A structured rubric for evaluating the many convergent factors that can
contribute to parent-child contact problems (PCCP). Family Court Review.

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Rubric

A structure or checklist of criteria each of which must be addressed in order to complete the whole.

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Rubric

NOT
a test,
questionnaire,
inventory, or
assessment

Does NOT
generate a score or
a percentile or any
quantitative
measure



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Rubric

Cannot determine what dynamics are occurring in a particular family

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Rubric

DOES

reassure you and the court
(and that nasty guy who critiques your work
for the other side)
that you've considered
every reasonable hypothesis.

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Rubric Summary



Garber, B.D. (2024). A structured rubric for evaluating the many
convergent factors that can contribute to parent-child contact
problems (PCCP). Family Court Review.

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Six areas of inquiry



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The rubric requires
consideration of **six domains** of variables

1. Incidental sensory, temporal, and proximal factors

2. Child variables

3. Child-Parent A dyadic variables

4. Child-Parent B dyadic variables

5. Systemic variables

6. Extra-systemic variables

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You must taste all six
before you decide on a snack

Incidental

Child

Parent A-
Child

Parent B-
Child

Systemic

Extra-
Systemic

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1. Incidental sensory, temporal, and proximal variables

Is there evidence of?

(a) Is the child's resistance recent and abrupt? If so, what triggers?

(b) Is the child's resistance event-time- or place-specific?

(c) Is the child's resistance associated with access to peers, siblings, step- and half-siblings?

(d) Is the child's resistance related to her negative experience with or expectations about a third party or animal associated with Parent B (e.g., new partner, neighbor, pet)?

(e) Is the child's resistance related to sensory (i.e., visual, olfactory, auditory, tactile, and/or gustatory) experiences at transition or anticipated in Parent B's care that may be subjectively aversive or overwhelming?

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2. Child variables

Is there evidence of?	☒
(a) Is the child's resistance associated with temperament?	☐
(b) Does the child resist change, transition, and/or separation across contexts (i.e., not exclusively when transitioning between care environments)?	☐
(c) Is the child's resistance due to diagnosed/ diagnosable social, emotional, behavioral, and/or cognitive differences?	☐
(d) Is the child's resistance due to a history of trauma not exclusively associated with either adult?	☐

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Anxious?

Cautious?

Slow-to-warm?

Separation anxiety?

Autism spectrum disorder?

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3. Child-Parent A dyadic variables

Is there evidence of?	☒
(a) Is the child's resistance due to a relationship affinity appropriate to the child's experience, development, and culture?	☐
(b) Is the child saying and doing what the Parent A needs to hear and see in order to maintain love and/or avoid anger and rejection? Does the child respond in a similarly chameleon-like manner with others?	☐
(c) Is the child's resistance associated with Parent A's threats, promises, and/or bribes as in "If you don't tell the evaluator you want to live with me I'll kill myself" or "If you tell the GAL you want to live with me I'll get you a car."	☐
(d) Does the child resist all separations from Parent A but manages separations from others?	☐
(e) Enmeshment: Are the interpersonal boundaries between Parent A and the child appropriate to the child's developmental capacities and the ambient culture? Is the child adultified, parentified, and/or infantilized in this relationship?	☐

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✓Developmentally
expectable affinity?

✓Chameleon-like
responding?

✓Adultification or
parentification?



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4. Child-Parent B dyadic factors

Is there evidence of?	☒
(a) Did the child ever have a relationship of any sort with Parent B?	
(b) Does the child experience Parent B's behavior, language, habits, beliefs, or activities as foreign, unacceptable, or embarrassing?	
(c) Estrangement: Has the child directly experienced Parent B as insensitive, unresponsive, abusive, or neglectful toward her ?	
(d) Estrangement: Has the child directly experienced Parent B as insensitive, unresponsive, abusive, neglectful, destructive or threatening toward others including animals and objects (i.e., vicarious exposure)?	
(e) If the child has direct or vicarious negative experiences associated with Parent B, do these constitute trauma that trigger extreme anticipatory anxiety, dissociation, flashbacks, resistance and/or refusal of contact?	

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Direct experience of
insensitive,
unresponsive care



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Vicarious
experience of
insensitive,
unresponsive
care



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5. Systemic variables

Is there evidence of?	☒
(a) Is the child's resistance to Parent B associated with an avoidance of the (emotional, verbal, and/or behavioral) conflict that erupts when the two adults are face-to-face?	
(b) Is the child's resistance to Parent B an effort to avoid "culture shock"?	
(c) Does the child experience the culture in one home as more aversive than the other? For example, teenagers may gravitate toward a permissive parent's home and away from an authoritarian's parent's home.	
(d) How has each parent scripted the adult separation, the adult conflict, and the other parent's role in the child's life for the child?	
(e) Is the child escaping the adult conflict by arbitrarily picking sides?	
(f) Alienation: Is this child's resistance/refusal of Parent B associated with her exposure to Parent A's (direct or indirect: intended or incidental) negative words, behaviors, and/or emotions about Parent B? This includes Parent A's effort to enroll the child as her spy, courier, or go-between to the extent that these actions communicate that Parent B is not safe or trusted.	

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Alienation?



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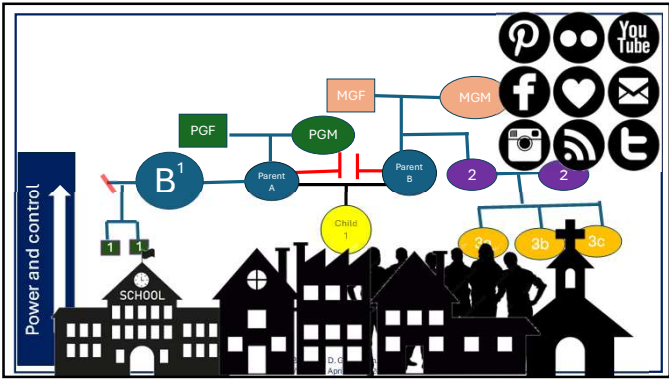
6. Extra-systemic variables

Is there evidence of?	☒
(a) Extended family influences including grandparents, step-parents, uncles, aunts, siblings?	
(b) Professional helper bias including teachers, coaches, clergy, and THE SILOed THERAPIST	
(c) Is the child missing desired activities in Parent A's community while with Parent B?	
(d) Is the child avoiding undesirable activities in Parent B's community while with Parent A?	
(e) How do media and other models influence the child's choices?	

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The silo-ed therapist
is one common example of an
extra-systemic influence that
must be considered.

Greenberg, L. R., Gould, J. W., Gould-Saltman, D. J., Stahl, P. (2003). Is the child's therapist part of the problem? What judges, attorneys, and mental health professionals need to know about court-related treatment for children. Family Law Quarterly, 37, 241-271.

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