

News
Release

Parental Alienation Syndrome expert
Dr. Kathleen Reay

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Judge Dismisses ‘Bad Mom’ Lawsuit in Illinois

For Immediate Release

***While Parental Alienation Syndrome was not cited
this case seems to indicate that this is indeed the case.***

Penticton, BC—The August 30th issue of Business & Law (www.ibtimes.com) reported a rather bizarre story of two adult children in Illinois suing their mother for ‘bad mothering’. These privileged kids felt that it was bad parenting when their mother refused to buy toys, told them to buckle up in the car, and disagreed about how much to spend on a party dress.

If that wasn’t enough justification for suspecting that alienation was occurring in this case, the fact that one of the three lawyers representing the two kids, now 23 and 20, is the children’s father provides additional evidence. While he claims to have attempted to talk his children out of the lawsuit, he asserts his belief in the need for accountability in parenting. Unfortunately, he neglected to make himself accountable for his own parenting.

“Unfortunately, but true, alienation is not uncommon in high-conflict divorce situations,” explains Dr. Kathleen Reay, Parental Alienation expert. Indeed, the mother’s lawyer in this case stated that the children’s father was attempting to “seek the ultimate revenge” by turning his children against their mother.

Thankfully, the judge in this case saw that the mother’s parenting was in no way abusive and clearly within the norm. However, this case is far from settled from the children’s perspective. They somehow have a distorted image of their mother, which inevitably has an effect on their relationship with her. That one parent is vilified for normal and healthy parenting does severe damage to a loving relationship and leaves many emotional scars on the children.

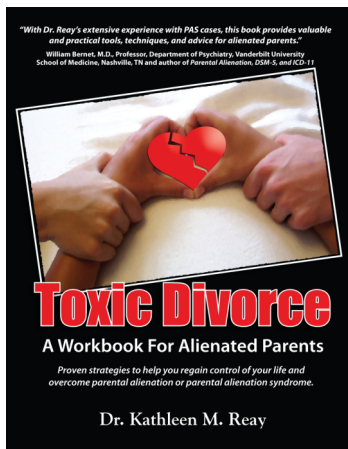
“Children who experience situations in which they are led to believe that one parent can do no wrong at the expense of the other parent that can do no right, have difficulty in many areas of their lives, including academics, relationships, and social situations,” says Reay.

Whatever the family circumstances, whether the family is intact, or the parents are separated or divorced, it’s clear that children do best with loving relationships with both parents, and it’s crucial that courts start to recognize where parental alienation exists in order to help these children.

“Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) is a significant form of abuse and some research studies have consistently shown that children and youth who have been subject to PAS also experience psychological difficulties such as chronic depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders and various physical complaints. It’s important to act swiftly if PAS is suspected, obtain a diagnosis from a qualified mental health professional and seek help for these abused children,” says Reay.

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Parental Alienation Syndrome expert, Dr. Kathleen Reay has written a book to help alienated parents rebuild loving relationships with their children. *Toxic Divorce: A Workbook for Alienated Parents* provides step-by-step directions and powerful strategies to deal with the ramifications of Parental Alienation or Parental Alienation Syndrome, including how to cope with grief and loss and how to overcome negative thoughts, feelings and behaviours.