

News  
Release

Parental Alienation Syndrome expert  
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## **The 2011 Canadian Symposium for Parental Alienation Syndrome: Treatment Solutions for Alienated Children** **An estimated 500,000 children affected each year by Parental Alienation Syndrome**

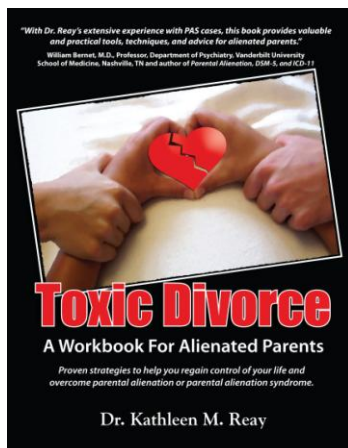
*For Immediate Release*

***Inclusion of Parental Alienation Syndrome in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) is hotly debated***

Penticton, BC—Earlier this year, CBC's Radio Program The Current hosted a discussion about the inclusion of Parental Alienation Syndrome in the DSM-5. The fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders is scheduled for publication in May of 2013 (<http://www.dsm5.org>). While this decision remains to be seen, Parental Alienation and Parental Alienation Syndrome experts continue to work on solutions to help both parents and children caught in this cycle of abuse.

At the 2011 Symposium for Parental Alienation Syndrome, experts specifically discussed treatment solutions for alienated children who often suffer cult-like effects. Keynote speaker, Dr. Kathleen Reay has just released a book on this growing and serious issue.

*Toxic Divorce: A Workbook for Alienated Parents* is aimed at alienated parents with practical step-by-step guidance for dealing with the ramifications of toxic divorces that have resulted in estrangement from their children.



“For well over four decades, parental divorce has been determined as the cause of a variety of significant physical, emotional, academic, and social difficulties in children and adolescents. High-conflict between divorcing or divorced parents, including the Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) phenomenon, is a noteworthy risk factor for children and adolescents.” says Reay.

Proponents and indeed alienated parents that have faced the court system, argue that the inclusion of Parental Alienation Syndrome in the upcoming issue of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders would legitimize PAS thereby allowing this syndrome to be openly talked about in court and move forward the cause of training more clinicians in recognizing and treating children exposed to this form of abuse.

“Alienated parents will learn effective ways to overcome negative thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that can stand in the way of not being able to rebuild loving relationships with their children. Mental health and legal professionals will find the information in *Toxic Divorce: A Workbook for Alienated Parents* extremely valuable to help their clients and work in the best interests of alienated children,” explains Reay.

*“With Dr. Reay’s extensive experience with PAS cases, this book provides valuable and practical tools, techniques, and advice for alienated parents.”*

William Bernet, M.D., Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN and author of *Parental Alienation, DSM-5, and ICD-11*

Experts agree that children have the right to both loving parents in their lives and that alienators tend to be personality disordered individuals who conduct a campaign of denigration against the other parent by using fear tactics, loyalty testing, exploitation of emotions and punishments that cross over into abuse.

*“Toxic Divorce: A Workbook for Alienated Parents* is designed to help the reader gain a clear understanding of the differences between parental alienation and parental alienation syndrome. Readers will also be able to distinguish the varying degrees of alienation and its long-term effects, and will come to understand why it’s important to take swift action if parental alienation is suspected. Just as early detection of cancer can save lives, early detection of PAS can save families.

“From a mental health perspective, the book provides more tangible and scientifically valid data to lend support to the potential inclusion of PAS in the upcoming edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. From a legal perspective, it will offer more tangible and scientifically valid data to lend support to judicial decisions in child custody litigation matters. *Toxic Divorce* includes the most up-to-date findings from the scientific community,” concludes Reay.