

CURRICULUM VITAE

SHAWN A. WYGANT, M.A., T.L.L.P.

208 Ottawa Ct., Oscoda, MI 48750

Mobile (989) 335-5134 | Fax (989) 739-1417

Email: swygant@psychlaw.net

Web: www.PsychLaw.net | www.IoscoCountyPsych.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Clinical Psychology Candidate Saybrook University, Pasadena, CA	2019-Present
Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, MI	2016-2018
Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology Argosy University, Phoenix, AZ	2013-2015
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Criminal Justice Argosy University, Phoenix, AZ	2009-2013

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

[Psychologist – Doctoral Temporary Educational Limited ~ # 6352000017](#) (State of Michigan)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Old Town Psychological Services (Traverse City, MI) **2024-Present**

Ph.D. Internship in Clinical and Forensic Psychology

- Conducts comprehensive psychological evaluations for clients across various age groups, addressing issues such as cognitive functioning, emotional well-being, and personality assessment.
- Administers and interprets a range of psychological testing instruments, including intelligence tests (e.g., WAIS-IV), achievement tests, and diagnostic assessments (e.g., MMPI-3). Writes detailed psychological reports that integrate test results with clinical interviews and behavioral observations.
- Collaborates with multidisciplinary teams, including therapists, psychiatrists, and educational professionals, to develop treatment recommendations.
- Provides psychoeducational feedback to clients, families, and referral sources, helping them understand test results and implications for mental health or learning interventions.
- Participates in weekly supervision and training sessions to refine clinical assessment skills and adhere to ethical standards in practice.

Iosco County Psychological Services (Oscoda, MI)

2018-Present

Owner / Forensic Psychology Associate / Family Therapist

Provides forensic and clinical psychological services to residents of Northern Michigan. Helps Family Courts assess and deal with complicated visitation and custody issues. Aids triers of fact in making evidenced-based decisions concerning the best interest of the child. Emphasis in the assessment of child custody and complex forms of child psychological maltreatment.

Ausable Valley Community Mental Health (Tawas, MI)

2017-2018

Practicum in Clinical Psychology

Provided supervised clinical psychology services in an outpatient clinic employing cognitive behavioral and emotion-focused methods for the diagnosis and treatment of psychological dysfunction. Supervised services included: emergency screening, intake assessment, differential diagnosis, treatment planning, individual therapy, and group therapy. Adapted and applied the State of Michigan “[Person-Centered Planning](#)” policy with each client honoring their preferences, choices, and abilities within a supportive and empathetic therapeutic environment.

PsychLaw.net, PLLC (Oscoda, MI)

2016-Present

Owner / Forensic Psychology Associate / Family Therapist

Provides expert analysis and evaluation of psycho-legal questions that arise within criminal, civil, and dependency cases. Aids counsel and triers of fact in making the best possible decisions concerning complicated behavioral science evidence. Specializes in the evaluation of child neglect/abuse issues that involve severe forms of child psychological maltreatment including parental alienation. Areas of practice include:

- Parental Alienation Diagnosis Assessment, & Treatment
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Family & Individual Therapy
- Criminal Responsibility Evaluations
- Psychological Testing
- Expert Testimony
- Parent-Child Reunification Therapy
- Child Abuse / Neglect Assessment
- Forensic Interview Analysis
- Competency Assessments
- CE/CLE Training for Mental Health and Legal Professionals

Joshi Attorneys & Counselors (Ann Arbor, MI)

2016-2020

Forensic Psychology Researcher

Provided supervised forensic psychological analysis of high-conflict law cases involving parental alienation. Drafted behavioral science memorandums and forensic psychological legal briefs used to answer questions of fact in high conflict custody cases. Developed interim strategies to ameliorate perverse family drama triangles that involve the unjustified abrogation of a child’s right to a close and continuing relationship with both parents.

Lorandos-Joshi Trial Lawyers (Ann Arbor, MI) 2013-2016

Forensic Psychology Evaluator

Provided supervised forensic psychological analysis of high-conflict law cases involving parental alienation. Drafted behavioral science memorandums and forensic psychological legal briefs used to answer questions of fact in high conflict custody cases. Developed interim strategies to ameliorate perverse family drama triangles that involve the unjustified abrogation of a child's right to a close and continuing relationship with both parents.

Tawas Methodist Church (Tawas City, MI) 2012-Present

Music Director / Pianist / Vocalist / Organist

Rehearses, directs, and accompanies two choral ensembles (Praise and Sanctuary Choirs). Leads the singing during worship services. Provides multimedia support and music for all services.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Oscoda, MI) 2002-2011

Pianist / Organist / Vocalist

Rehearsed and accompanied choir. Provided music for services including weddings and funerals.

Michigan Aerobics & Fitness (Hartland & Oscoda, MI) 2002-2010

Owner / Cardio Kickboxing, Spinning, & Tai Chi Instructor

Provided aerobics instruction for cardio-kickboxing, spinning, and tai chi classes at North Oakland Family YMCA, Bally's Total Fitness of Southfield, Powerhouse Gym of Livonia and Rochester Hills, The Gym of Lake Orion & Orion Judo Club, Corefit Pilates of Brighton, Oscoda Community Center, and Huron Sports.

Arthritis Foundation Michigan (Troy, MI) 2002-2005

Certified Tai Chi Instructor

Taught Dr. Paul Lam's '[Tai Chi for Arthritis](#)' program, as adapted by the Michigan chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, to small and large groups of adults throughout Michigan.

PianoNation, Inc. (Traverse City, Novi, & Bloomfield Hills MI) 2000-2005

Sales Manager / Music Technology Clinician

Managed retail piano store. Sold new and used digital and acoustic pianos (*Technics, Young Chang, Seiler, Bechstein, Kurzweil, Weinbach, & Viscount*). Developed & maintained web-site. Wrote, directed & produced TV, radio, and print advertising. Hired and trained piano teachers. Developed and managed annual institutional sales and academic placement services.

Kurtz Music, Inc. (Traverse City, MI) 1995-2000

Sales Manager / Music Technology Clinician / Piano Teacher

Managed retail piano store. Sold Yamaha and Kawai digital and acoustic pianos. Organized and promoted institutional sales and musical instrument loan programs for [Interlochen Summer Arts Camp](#), [Bay View Music Festival](#), and [Concord Academy](#). Trained new teachers and sales staff. Achievements: Increased annual gross sales from \$540k to 1.01 million (+89%). Highest number of pianos sold during any institutional piano sale (42 units) in Northern Michigan.

[St. Andrews Episcopal Church](#) (Gaylord, MI) 1995-1997

Pianist / Organist / Choir Director

Rehearsed, directed, and accompanied choir. Provided music for services including weddings and funerals.

[Troy Adventist Academy](#) (Troy, MI) 1993-1995

Piano Teacher

Taught piano and music theory to the elementary school students.

Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church (Royal Oak, MI) 1992-1995

Pianist / Organist / Vocalist

Rehearsed and accompanied choir. Provided music for services including weddings and funerals.

Valhalla Music, Inc. (Ferndale, MI) 1987-1992

Head Programmer / Music Technology Clinician

Programmed and created voice sound libraries for popular keyboards by Yamaha, Roland, Ensoniq, and Korg which were sold through [Keyboard Magazine](#) and [Electronic Musician](#). Sequenced, composed, and recorded demos for all of the sound libraries. Achievements: Created the most popular selling and critically acclaimed library of sounds for the Roland D-50 (Studio Series) as reviewed by Keyboard Magazine; Increased annual gross sales from \$225k to 550k (+144%)

Wygant Music, Inc. (Oscoda, MI) 1981-Present

Owner / Pianist / Music Teacher / Composer

Pianist, choir director, vocalist, composer, arranger, and percussionist providing classical and sacred music services. Notable compositions and performances: Mass in D with the St. Hugo of the Hills Choir at St. Hugo of the Hills Cathedral (March 27th, 1993); Piano Concerto No. 1 in C-Sharp Minor with the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra at Temple Beth El, Birmingham, MI (February 12th, 1995); Violin Concerto No. 1 in F Major with Fine Arts Strings, Scottsdale, AZ (July 8th, 1996); Piano Concerto No. 2 in A Major and Season Suite for flute & guitar at Milliken Auditorium, Traverse City, MI (March 14th, 1999).

PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES & TRAINING SEMINARS

Wygant, S. A. (2026, March 19). *Assessing Allegations of Child Abuse in High Conflict Domestic Relations Cases* [Conference presentation]. [41st Annual Symposium of the American College of Forensic Psychology, San Diego, CA](#). This 60-minute CE-accredited workshop summarized the relevant case-law and scientific literature concerning estimated prevalence rates of true and false claims of abuse in divorce litigation; Differentiated and applied the burdens of proof used by courts in determining abuse allegations; Operationalized the scientific method for data collection, data analysis, and hypothesis testing in the assessment of abuse allegations.

Wygant, S. A. (2025, November 16). *When Should a Child's Exposure to Parental Alienation Behaviors Require a Child Protective Response? Exploring the Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model*. This live webinar presented to [The Professional Alliance for Child Centered Safety \(PACCS\)](#) explored the Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model (PACAM; Wygant, 2024) through analysis of trial court determinations of parental alienation as discussed in 1,351 Appellate Court decisions.

Wygant, S. A. (2025, September 12). *Protective Parenting and Shared Parenting Models: Can They Co-Exist?* [Conference Presentation]. [The 7th International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group, Toronto, Ontario, Canada](#). This 1-hour CE-accredited workshop examined the intersection of protective parenting and shared parenting models in family law. Relevant case law, shared parenting statutes, and empirical research regarding domestic violence and parental alienation were explicated to clarify distinctions between true and false protective parenting claims, evaluate the role of shared parenting presumptions, and appraise child well-being outcomes in shared vs. lone custody arrangements. Highlighted practical implications for courts and practitioners in reconciling domestic violence, parental alienation, and statutory mandates within best-interest analyses.

Wygant, S. A. (2025, September 11). *When Should a Child's Exposure to Parental Alienation Behaviors Require a Child Protective Response? Exploring the Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model* [Conference Presentation]. [The 7th International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group, Toronto, Ontario, Canada](#). Delivered this 1 hour research-based presentation on the Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model (PACAM), differentiating parental alienation (acts of maltreatment) from parental alienation syndrome (indicators of harm). Analyzed findings from over 1,200 appellate cases across 50 states, highlighting judicial use of PACAM, prevalence of Type II errors in custody determinations, and the need for earlier protective interventions. Learning objectives included distinguishing PA from PAS, identifying common alienating behaviors, recognizing when delayed intervention constitutes neglect, and applying psychological child abuse frameworks to parental alienation in legal contexts.

Wygant, S. A. (2025, June 20). *Conducting scientifically informed child custody evaluations when parental alienation & domestic violence have been alleged* [Live webinar training seminar presentation]. [Michigan Psychological Association](#). This 2-hour CE-accredited workshop provided licensed psychologists and child custody evaluators

with advanced training in applying the scientific method to high-conflict custody evaluations involving allegations of parental alienation (PA), parental alienation syndrome (PAS), and domestic violence (DV). The presentation emphasized hypothesis generation and testing, integration of peer-reviewed literature, and the use of structured data analysis in best interest of the child determinations. Participants learned to differentiate between the types of domestic violence, distinguish between PA and PAS, and identify common alienating behaviors.

Wygant, S. A. (2025, March 22). *Assessing allegations of parental alienation child abuse during child custody evaluations* [Conference presentation]. [40th Annual Symposium of the American College of Forensic Psychology, San Diego, CA.](#) This 60-minute CE-accredited workshop presented a detailed explication of the Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model (PACAM) as a novel forensic framework for assessing parental alienation in the context of child custody evaluations. The presentation emphasized the importance of early child protective responses based on the child's exposure to alienating behaviors—rather than waiting for the emergence of parental alienation syndrome (PAS) symptomatology. Empirical support for PACAM was drawn from relevant peer-reviewed psychological literature and a case law analysis conducted by PsychLaw's 2024 parental alienation research project, which examined 1,351 appellate court decision where parental alienation was alleged. The session also explored how PACAM aligns with accepted standards of forensic practice and provides a structured basis for identifying psychological maltreatment in legal settings.

Wygant, S. A. (2025, March 14). *When should a child's exposure to parental alienation behaviors require a child protective response? – Exploring the Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model* [Conference presentation]. [American Psychology–Law Society Annual Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.](#) Mr. Wygant's Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model (PACAM), a novel conceptual and forensic framework that classifies parental alienation as a form of psychological maltreatment warranting early child protective intervention was explored in the context of relevant scientific literature and case law. The presentation distinguished between parental alienation behaviors as acts of maltreatment and parental alienation syndrome as indicators of harm, emphasized the risk of Type II errors in family court when relying solely on symptoms of parental alienation syndrome when assessing allegations of parental alienation, and presented judicial case law supporting protective responses based on exposure to alienating behaviors absent symptoms of PAS.

Wygant, S. A. (2024, October 5). *When should a child's exposure to parental alienation behaviors require a child protective response? Exploring the Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model* [Conference presentation]. [Parental Alienation Consortium Legislative Summit, Southbury, CT, United States.](#) Presented a novel child protection framework—the Parental Alienation Child Abuse Model (PACAM)—which conceptualizes parental alienation as a form of psychological maltreatment. The model emphasizes early intervention based on exposure to alienating behaviors, rather than the presence of symptoms of parental alienation syndrome. PACAM advocates for protective responses at the point of exposure and introduces a revised definition of parental alienation as any parental behaviors likely to cause harm to a child's relationship with the other parent. It

also classifies parental alienation as a subtype of psychological maltreatment, and parental alienation syndrome as a subtype of parental alienation.

Wygant, S. A. (2024, April 26). *Who needs to be trained in parental alienation and why?* [Keynote presentation, live webinar, 1.5 CEUs & 1.5 CLEs]. [Children 4 Tomorrow 5th Annual Symposium: An Inside Look at Parental Alienation—What We Need to Know About Psychological Child Abuse, a.k.a. Parental Alienation](#). Delivered a 90-minute keynote presentation highlighting the critical training needs of judges, attorneys, mental health professionals, child protection workers, and forensic interviewers in identifying and responding to parental alienation as a form of psychological child abuse. The presentation addressed diagnostic challenges, differentiated subtypes of psychological maltreatment, and examined Michigan trial and appellate court rulings on parental alienation from 1996 to 2024. Evidence-based strategies for continuing education and legal training were presented to promote the early identification, prevention, and intervention of parental alienation child abuse in forensic and legal contexts.

Wygant, S. A. (2023, October 9-10). [Child Abuse 10-Hour Training Seminar \[Live Webinar\]](#). Developed, produced, and presented a 10-hour (10 CEUs) training seminar for Child Legal Representatives (CLRs), Child and Family Investigators (CFIs), and Parental Responsibilities Evaluators (PREs) to satisfy the requirements for child abuse training under Colo. Rev. Stat. § 14-10-127.5 as amended by HB 23-1178. This 10-hour didactic, immersive, and experiential training seminar unpacked and explicated the extant scientific literature and relevant Federal and Colorado statutes concerning:

1. The History of Child Welfare
2. Child Abuse and Neglect Conceptualizations
3. Operational Definitions for Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse, and Physical Abuse
4. Best Interests of the Child Factorial Analysis
5. Child Abuse Reporting Procedures
6. Standards of Proof used in Child Abuse Investigations and Determinations
7. Psychological Maltreatment Subtypes
8. Sequelae of Trauma from Exposure to Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse, and Physical Abuse
9. Implicit and Explicit Bias Operational Definitions and Techniques to Reduce Bias
10. Parenting Styles

Wygant, S. A. (2023, October 16-17). [Domestic Violence 10-Hour Training Seminar \[Live Webinar\]](#). Developed, produced, and presented a 10-hour (10 CEUs) training seminar for Child Legal Representatives (CLRs), Child and Family Investigators (CFIs), and Parental Responsibilities Evaluators (PREs) to satisfy the requirements for child abuse training under Colo. Rev. Stat. § 14-10-127.5 as amended by HB 23-1178. This 10-hour didactic, immersive, and experiential training seminar unpacked and explicated the extant scientific literature and relevant Federal and Colorado statutes concerning:

1. History of Domestic Violence Legislation
2. Domestic Violence Etiology and Operational Definitions
3. Prevalence of Domestic Violence
4. Sequelae of Trauma from Exposure to Domestic Violence
5. Power & Control Relationship Dynamics within the Cycle of Violence
6. Perpetrator Characteristics and Behavioral Patterns
7. Characteristics and Behaviors of Battered Women
8. Sexual Violence, Sequelae of Trauma, Marital Rape, and Rape Myths
9. Primitive Defenses used by Coercive Controlling Parents
10. Why Some Parents Murder in the Context of Custody Disputes
11. Standards of Proof used in Domestic Violence Investigations and Determinations
12. Conducting Scientifically Informed Parental Responsibilities Evaluations
13. Report Writing & Expert Testimony.

Wygant, S. A. (2023, August 3). [Conducting Scientifically Informed Child Custody Evaluations When Parental Alienation and Domestic Violence Have Been Alleged](#). This skills building workshop unpacked how to use the scientific method when evaluating parents' allegations of parental alienation and domestic violence during a best interests of the child custody investigation. Presented at the 2023 American Psychological Association Convention (Walter E. Convention Center – Room 150B), Washington, D.C., August 3-5, 2023.

Wygant, S. A. (2023, June 18). [Conducting Scientifically Informed Child Custody Evaluations When Parental Alienation and Domestic Violence Have Been Alleged](#). This workshop unpacked how to use the scientific method when evaluating parents' competing claims of parental alienation and domestic violence during a best interests of the child custody investigation. *Presented at the 5th International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group*, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colorado, June 16-19, 2023.

Wygant, S. A. (2023, March 19). [Cultivating Radical Hospitality through Pranayamic Breathwork and Wuji Guided Meditation](#). This workshop provided an explication of the contemporary scientific research on the benefits of daily pranayamic breathwork as well as the application of this breathwork during guided Wuji meditation. *Presented at the 16th Annual Conference of the American Psychological Association's Society for Humanistic Psychology (Div. 32)*, University of New Mexico March 19, 2023.

Wygant, S. A. (2022, May 6). [Parental Alienation Detractors: How Purveyors of Junk Science Misinform the Public and the Courts](#). This presentation unpacked the junk science findings of Meier et al. (2019) which were disconfirmed in the 2021 study by Harman and Lorandos. Presented at: *Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) 2nd International Experts Seminar: Changes Required for Family Well-Being – Malta*.

Wygant, S. A. (2021, July 14). [Child-Centered Forensic Interviewing Strategies: How to Help Children Tell What They Know](#). Presented a 90-minute workshop describing and comparing child-centered forensic interview and interviewer-centered forensic interviews, identifying inappropriate interviewer-centered techniques, and examining phenomenological approaches to enhancing rapport building skills. *Presented at The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28th Virtual Colloquium*.

Wygant, S. A. (2021, April 17). Third Party Alienation: How Professional Participants Play the Role of Rescuer in the Alienating Parent's Perverse Family Drama Triangle. *Presented at Malta's First International Experts' Seminar on Parental Alienation. sponsored Happy Parenting – Malta*.

Wygant, S. A. (2020, November 26). [Third Party Alienation: How Professional Participants Play the Role of Rescuer in the Alienating Parent's Perverse Family Drama Triangle](#). Presented at the [Online Parental Alienation Conference 2020: Supporting the Fight to End Parental Alienation Around the World](#). Sponsored by *Parental Alienation Europe, Time to Make a Change and La Dolce Vita Project*.

Wygant, S. A. (2020, October 2). Alienation of Children and Families. Presented a five-hour (Five Social Work CEUs) training seminar for [Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority \(AVCMHA\)](#). This training seminar taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of the alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A. (2020, August 4). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Presented a five-hour (Five Social Work CEUs) training seminar for [Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority \(AVCMHA\)](#). This training seminar taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of the alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A. (2019, September 13). [Third Party Alienation: How Professional Participants Play the Part of Rescuer in the Alienating Parent's Perverse Family Drama Triangle](#). This workshop unpacked the scientific literature on the pathological role that perverse triangulation plays in the alienation of children when professional participants align with the alienator and inadvertently contribute to the alienation and substantial harm to the target parent-child relationship. *Presented in a 90-minute three-person panel session at the Third International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, September 12-14, 2019*.

Wygant, S. A., & Burgess, B. W. (2019, September 13). [*The Science Behind False Allegations of Child Abuse in Cases of Parental Alienation*](#). Authored and co-presented this 45-minute presentation on helping triers of fact overcome the challenges of dealing with false claims of abuse through an explication of what the science says about: (1) how fictitious allegations of abuse can be created within an alienating parent-child relationship, (2) how false memories of abuse can be induced in children who are exposed to alienating strategies and brainwashing techniques, (3) what happens to children when Courts fail to resolve abuse allegations in a timely manner, and (4) what forms of intervention Courts can take to stop the formation and maintenance of false allegations of abuse. *Presented at the Third International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, September 12-14, 2019.*

Wygant, S. A. (2019, September 12). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Presented a four-hour (Five Social Work CEUs) training seminar at the Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (AVCMHA) St. Vincent Training Annex, West Branch, Michigan. This training seminar for AVCMHA social workers and family therapists taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of the alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A. (2019, May 23). [*Understanding the Sequelae Psychological Maltreatment in Alienated Children & Resolving Issues of Diagnosis, Assessment, and Treatment*](#). Presented at the Parental Alienation Awareness Conference for Professionals at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, May 23, 2019. This 1-hour presentation helped participants identify and describe the sequelae of psychological maltreatment in alienated children as well as resolve diagnostic, assessment, and treatment issues using science drawn from the empirical research.

Wygant, S. A., & Bach, L. (2019, March 23). [*Exploring the Valence and Meanings of Love and Hate in the Therapeutic Relationship*](#). Authored and co-presented an experiential and dialogic role-playing workshop at the [American Psychological Association Division 32](#) Society for Humanistic Psychology 12th Annual Conference, [*Embracing Our Fear, Courage, and Love in Pursuit of a Just Community*](#), at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, March 21-24, 2019.

Wygant, S. A. (2019, February 27, 2019). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Presented a four-hour (Five Social Work CEUs) training seminar at the Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (AVCMHA) training center in Oscoda, Michigan. This training seminar for AVCMHA social workers and family therapists taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A. (2018, September 21). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Presented a four-hour (Five Social Work CEUs) training seminar at the Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (AVCMHA) St. Vincent Training Annex, West Branch, Michigan. This training seminar for AVCMHA social workers and family therapists taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A. (2017, June 16). *Remembering Falsely: The Neural Correlates of False Memory Induction*. Presentation at the 3rd Annual Psi Chi Research Symposium, *The Intersection of Psychology and Neuroscience* held at the Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan June 16, 2017. Presented a one-hour didactic workshop on the latest scientific research studies into how false memories are induced in animals and human beings.

CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, & PRESENTATIONS ATTENDED

Olson, S. (2026, March 21). *Violence risk assessments* [Conference presentation]. 41st Annual Symposium of the American College of Forensic Psychology, San Diego, CA. 1-hour (CE) workshop that provided an overview of violence risk assessment practices across forensic settings. The presentation reviewed commonly used risk assessment instruments and examined the strengths and limitations of structured tools versus clinical judgment. It also addressed common misconceptions about violence risk assessment and outlined best practices for formulating opinions that directly answer referral questions in forensic evaluations.

Philipsborn, J. (2026, March 20). *Expert opinion testimony: Suggestions on preparation, report writing, and interactions with counsel* [Conference presentation]. 41st Annual Symposium of the American College of Forensic Psychology, San Diego, CA. 1-hour (CE) workshop that examined the legal standards governing admissibility of expert testimony and emphasized key components of effective forensic reports that distinguish reliable from unreliable opinions.

Nelson, S. (2026, March 20). *Understanding cognitive bias in professional judgment* [Conference presentation]. 41st Annual Symposium of the American College of Forensic Psychology, San Diego, CA. 1-hour (CE) workshop that examined how common cognitive biases affect forensic and clinical decision-making and presented evidence-based strategies to improve diagnostic reasoning, reduce bias, and enhance the accuracy and reliability of professional judgments.

Olson, S. (2026, March 19). *Malingering: How our understanding has changed over time*. [41st Annual Symposium of the American College of Forensic Psychology, San Diego, CA](#). This 1-hour (CE) workshop examined the evolution of conceptualizations and assessment of malingering in forensic psychology, highlighting advances in detection methods, shifts in diagnostic frameworks, and the impact of research on clinical and legal

decision-making. The presentation emphasized contemporary approaches to distinguishing feigned from genuine symptoms and the implications for forensic evaluations.

Rawles, P. (2026, January 6). *Treating guilt and shame resulting from trauma and moral injury*. 5-hour Workshop Presented at the Saybrook University Residential Learning Conference, Universal City, California.

Rawles, P. (2026, January 7). *Parenting capacity evaluations in protective matters: best practices, ethics, and applications*. 5-hour Workshop Presented at the Saybrook University Residential Learning Conference, Universal City, California.

Palmisano, C. (2025, August 29). *Psychological Evaluations for Adult Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Comprehensive Overview*. 5-hour CE Workshop Presented at the Saybrook University Residential Learning Conference, Universal City, California.

Braunstein, L. J., Deutsch, R. M., & Polak, S. (2025, January 8). *The truth and consequences of Kayden's law: Emerging trends* [Webinar Video on Demand]. This 60-minute workshop provided by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) provided a brief overview of the tenets of Kayden's law and the unintended consequences of the law, as well as some creative solutions to address the needs of these families within the law.

Yasenik, L., Graham, J., & Stonechild, C. (2025, April 15). *Authenticity and weight when including children's voices in court processes* [Webinar Video on Demand]. This 60-minute workshop provided by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) focused on the concepts of the weight and authenticity of the child's voice in family law matters. The presenters posited that the child's voice is only one piece of the evidentiary puzzle and that family law practitioners should not avoid the inclusion of children in family law matters.

Ajoku, C., Deutsch, R. M., Harris-Britt, A., McNamara, K., Singh, T. (2024, March 11-14 and March 18-20). [**The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations**](#) [Live Webinar Training]. This 7-day, 28-hour comprehensive parenting plan evaluation (i.e., child custody evaluation) training program provided by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) unpacked the scientific literature concerning: (1) the forensic evaluation process including interviewing, recordkeeping, and the use of technology, (2) the purpose and roles of the parenting plan evaluator, (4) how to assess for intimate partner violence and parent child contact problems, (5) how to utilize psychological testing, (6) best practices for report writing and testifying, (7) review of cultural considerations, biases, and ethical issues, (8) the implications of child maltreatment including sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, and (9) the implications of relocations and consideration of children with special needs.

Fabricius, W. V., & Saini, M. A. (2024, February 12). *Equal parenting time in practice and policy: A friendly debate and discussion* [Webinar Video on Demand]. This 60-minute workshop provided by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)

examined the various parenting plans schedules that have been proposed and evaluated in the social sciences through the lens of equal parenting time. The presenters discussed the benefits and limitations of presumptions of equal parenting time from both policy and practice perspectives.

Eddy, B. (2024, January 11). *Confirmation bias: Getting it backwards in high conflict cases (and how to correct it)*. This 60-minute workshop provided by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) examined the nature of confirmation bias, including some brain science, and how it can easily block gaining a full understanding of the facts of a case. Case examples were explored that demonstrated how dangerous confirmation bias can be for parents and children. A simple method for preventing confirmation bias was offered by the presenter.

Jaffe, P. (2023, August 9). *Coercive Control: Understanding the Impact on Survivors as Parents and their Children* [Webinar Video on Demand]. This 60-minute workshop provided by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) explored coercive control as an important factor to consider in determining children's best interests when crafting parenting arrangements.

Zimmermann, J. (2023, July 15). *Co-Parenting Counseling with High-Conflict Divorced Parents: Challenges for Psychologists at All Levels of Experience*. This 1 CE course identifies the differences between co-parenting training and family or couple therapy as well as examines the essential elements of effective co-parenting counseling with high-conflict divorced or separated parents. Presented through the National Register of Health Service Psychologists Continuing Education.

Sullivan, M. (2023, July 5). *Parent Child Contact Problems: Family Violence and Parental Alienation – Either/or, Neither/nor, Both/and, One in the Same?* [Webinar Video on Demand]. This 60-minute workshop provided by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) explored the current use of these parental alienation concepts as one factor that helps explain a type of Parent-child Contact Problem (PCCP), highlights critical distinctions between different types of PCCPs and proposes some ethical principles for decision-making about these cases, especially in light of the growing social science literature about assessment and interventions.

Wurmfeld, K., & Malpe, K. (2023, May 10). *The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Young Children* [Webinar Video on Demand]. This 60-minute workshop provided by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) explored ways in which very young children experience intimate partner violence; the risks and impact of intimate partner violence on parent-child relationships; and how the [Strong Starts' approach](#) promotes best practices around the intersection of intimate partner violence and very young children across systems.

Rouse, S., & Hartley, G. (2023, February 16). *Body Language Tactics* [Video On Demand]. Six module deception detection training course taught by body language experts Scott Rouse and Greg Hartley.

McCormack, B. F. (2023, February 8). Screening for Intimate Partner Violence [Webinar Video on Demand]. This 60-minute workshop provided by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) focused on practical strategies for intimate partner violence screening in high conflict custody cases.

Palmisano, C., & Sharpe, K. (2023, January 12-13). Spousal Abuse – Assessment & Intervention. This 15-hour workshop presented by Saybrook University explored the complexities of intimate partner violence and how psychologists effectively assess and intervene in cases of domestic violence. The clinical implications of intimate partner violence were examined from a humanistic, trauma-informed perspective.

Lichtanski, K., & Brown, V. (2022, September 1). Human Sexuality [In Person Workshop]. This 15 hour / 2 day workshop presented by Saybrook University explored the physiological-psychological aspects and social-cultural variables associated with sexual identities, sexual behaviors, and sexual disorders.

Mitnick, M. (2022, August 9). Children’s Voices in Cases Involving Parent-Child Contact Problem. [Webinar Video on Demand]. This 60-minute workshop provided tips on communicating with children about parent-child contact issues.

Braunstein, L. J. (2022, June 21). Refuse and Resist Cases: Making the Case to the Court [Webinar Video on Demand]. This 60-minute workshop focused on the complex aspects of refuse/resist dynamics and how these cases should be presented to the Court to best meet the needs of the families embroiled in litigation.

Gonzalez, R., & Sullivan, M. (2021, November 17). Parent-Child Contact Problems: NCJFCJ and AFCC Working Toward Common Ground [Webinar Video on Demand]. This 60-minute workshop focused on the combined efforts by the leadership of the NCJFCJ and the AFCC to fashion a joint statement on children’s resistance / refusal to have contact with a parent. The presenters addressed some of the controversies and conundrums in the family justice field that they believe have adversely impacted intervening mental health and legal professionals’ efforts to protect the health and well-being of families and children.

Friedland, H. M., & Behringer, G. D. (2021, August 10). “Co-parenting” Without Contact and Other Conundrums: Can Parties with Orders of Protection Really Have Joint Custody? [Webinar Video on Demand] This 60-minute workshop focused on identifying the limitations our court system struggles with to adequately address intimate partner violence, the impact domestic violence proceedings can have on parenting, and the effect orders of protection can have on parties’ ability to co-parent as well as explored suggestions for alternatives that in the right circumstances, if implemented, could enable parents to continue co-parenting while offering a domestic abuse victim protection from future acts of intimate partner violence.

Kalcharno, C. (2021, July 15). [Interview and Interrogation of Child Abuse Suspects](#). 60-minute workshop examining typical shared traits of offenders based on the type of victimization: child homicide, child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, and technology-

based offenses with a special focus on learning techniques to engage offenders during interrogations and gauge the level of victimization through post confession investigative practices to enhance criminal prosecution. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28th Virtual Colloquium.

Vieth, V. (2021, July 15). [We're Just Going to Talk: Presenting Your Case in Opening Statements and Closing Arguments in Cases of Child Abuse](#). 90-minute workshop discussed the art and science of effective strategies and themes for opening statements and closing arguments in child abuse cases focusing on developing themes for presenting a case, making specific arguments to persuade a jury that a child is telling the truth, and debunking common defenses. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28th Virtual Colloquium.

Mitnick, M. (2021, July 14). [Interviewing Children About Sexual Abuse](#) [Live Webinar]. This 60-minute webinar provided information about the impact of children's cognitive development on interview participation, how to frame reliable questions, and how to understand the answers received. In *The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Training Webinars*.

Hart, S., Brassard, M., Slep, A., Schneiderman, M., Blackmon, S., & Whitman, J. (2021, July 14). [Global Child Psychological Maltreatment Summit-Vision, Recommendations & Progress](#). 60-minute symposium presenting highlights of the global Child Psychological Maltreatment Summit, including consideration of its nature, recommendations and related progressive developments with emphasis on multiple tier intervention. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28th Virtual Colloquium.

Binford, W. W., Bochenek, M., Wang, E., Matlow, R., Punsky, B., & Pineda, L. (2021, July 14). [Conducting Trauma-Informed Interviews of Children](#). 60-minute workshop examining the neurobiology of trauma and protocols for conducting safe, trauma-informed interviews with children. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28th Virtual Colloquium.

Pumo, A. (2021, July 14). [When Parents and Systems Cause Harm: Healing Parent-Child Relationships in Therapeutic Supervised Visitation](#). 90-minute workshop on supervised visitation programs. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28th Virtual Colloquium.

Faller, K., Everson, M., & Cordisco-Steele, L. (2021, July 13). [Variations on the Single Interview Model](#). 90-minute workshop describing the latest research, perspectives, and models for forensic interviewing and evaluation for children suspected of abuse, but who need more than one interview. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28th Virtual Colloquium.

Barocca, C., & Dickson, J. (2021, July 13). [Tele-Forensic Interviewing: Emerging Research, Policy & Practice](#). 60-minute workshop reviewing tele-forensic interviewing research and practice guidelines as well as advice for implementation. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28th Virtual Colloquium

Link, D., & Zafar, S. (2021, June 10). Resist-Refuse and Domestic Violence Allegations: Abuse, Anxiety, or Alienation? [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop discussed how to differentiate and respond to domestic violence and parental alienation. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Greenberg, L. R., Schnider, R. A., & Picker, E. M. (2021, June 10). Acting Before It's Too Late: Prudent Early Intervention in Resist-Refuse Cases [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop discussed common obstacles and practical strategies for early, prudent intervention with resist-refuse dynamics including the critical roles of the Court, appropriate intervention models, obtaining effective orders, challenges to current thinking, and essential interdisciplinary steps. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Bala, N., Fidnick, L., Frederick, L., & Drozd, L. (2021, June 9). When a Child Rejects a Parent: Becoming Part of the Solution [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute multidisciplinary panel discussed the range of perspectives and approaches for intervening with the intent of developing a collaborative model of practice. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Goldstein, S., & Braunstein, L. J. (2021, June 9). Ten Things Every Family Law Professional Should Know About Sexual Abuse in Child Custody Matters [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop discussed the difficulty for professionals and the Courts in dealing with allegations of child abuse that arise in the context of custody cases. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Neoh, J. (2021, June 9). A Four-Day Single Therapist Model for Complex Family Matters [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop discussed behavioral parent therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, and exposure and response prevention therapy; keeping both parents involved in children's lives; rejection of the either/or parent litigation model of dealing with alienation; emphasis on reportable nonconfidential therapy; practical advice, such as how to get resistant children together with rejected parents; mapping strategies on the idiosyncratic needs of each family; and ongoing case management. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Truax, L. T., Slabach, M., McCall, S. (2021, June 9). Zealous Advocacy and Creating the Appropriate Team in Resist-Refuse Cases: Can It Be Done? [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop delved into the ethical considerations that lawyers face when representing parents in resist-refuse cases where ethics of zealous advocacy are seemingly contrary to a child's best interest or the long-term goals of a parent. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Popielarczyk, L., Altobelli, T., & Fidler, B. (2021, June 8). Cases Involving Severe Resist-Refuse Dynamics: A Time to Say Goodbye...For Now? [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop focused on severe cases of resist-refuse dynamics in the aftermath of court proceedings resulting in (1) an order for custody change, (2) an order stipulating parenting time with each parent, or (3) an order granting the status quo with restricted time, no time, or restricted communication with the rejected parent; as well as explored a protocol for saying goodbye, its clinical significance, and legal considerations. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Deutsch, R. M., Drozd, L., & Saini, M. (2021, June 7). Trauma as a Potential Distractor or Illuminator in Exploring Resist-Refuse Dynamics [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop distinguished between stressful life events and traumatic events, described the trauma screening process, and introduced a new clinical assessment to evaluate risks, resilience, and previous treatments and responses; as well as reviewed methods for evaluating treatment gains. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

McNamara, K., & McWilliams, J. (2021, June 7). Fostering Healthy Outcomes for Families: How Professionals Can Become Part of the Solution [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop highlighted current psychological research on the cumulative effects of adverse childhood experiences, factors that promote resilience, and the availability of empirically informed interventions as well as discussed various ways lawyers, judges, and therapists can work together to help ensure that families in crisis receive appropriate interventions sooner rather than later. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Burns, A. T., Carter, D. K., & Moran, J. A. (2021, June 2). Conflict Prevention, Peacemaking, and Peacekeeping in Families with Resist-Refuse: A Parenting Coordinator's Role, Functions, and Skills [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop reviewed Resist-Refuse Dynamics theory and research, a parenting coordinator's role, and essential elements of the parenting coordination process as described in the 2019 AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination; as well as taught parenting coordinators skills to screen for Resist-Refuse Dynamic problems; when to withdraw coordination agreements; and, how to coordinate services with behavioral health providers working with the family. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Deutsch, R. M., Fidler, B., Frederick, L., & Ver Steegh, N. (2021, June 1). Making Sense of Complicated Situations: A Systematic Approach to Intimate Partner Violence and/or Resist-Refuse Dynamics [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop explored how using a systematic and label-free approach to cases can improve the quality of analysis and responses. In the [AFCC 58th Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

NACCFI. (2021, May 14). [Child Forensic Interviewing Training Course](#) [Video on demand]. 40-hour online training course taught by the [National Association of Certified Child Forensic Interviewers](#). This course covered (1) the knowledge competencies of child forensic interviewing; (2) effective use of child centered question typology; (3) how child developmental and cognitive challenges affect the interview; (4) cultural, social and rapport building skills; (5) identifying and responding to common barriers associated with interviewing children; (6) how to corroborate testimonial evidence with other evidence during an investigation; & (7) how to objectively evaluate alternative hypothesis to an allegation of abuse.

Saini, M. (2021, April 15). Using Survey Data to Profile Extreme Views of Resist and Refusal Dynamics [Live Webinar]. This one-hour educational webinar reviewed and discussed the findings of a survey of 1,049 respondents concerning a new term of art entitled: "Resist and Refusal Dynamics." Respondents' views and attitudes towards Resist and Refusal Dynamics were highlighted as well as issues of cause, etiology, the role of intimate partner violence, and treatment.

Bernet, W. (2020, November 26). Psychological Tests that Help Establish the Scientific Basis for Parental Alienation [Live Webinar]. The [Online Parental Alienation Conference 2020: Supporting the Fight to End Parental Alienation Around the World](#). Sponsored by [Parental Alienation Europe, Time to Make a Change](#) and [La Dolce Vita Project](#).

Cohen, B. R., Stahl, P. M., & Stahl, R. M. (2020, November 14). [A High Conflict Case: Trauma's Impact on Memory, Children, Parents, and the Courts](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14th Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. The presenters highlighted and discussed ways in which a family's conflict results in trauma for their child, looked at the parents' behaviors through a trauma-focused lens, and provided tools for navigating bias and the trauma behaviors that arise in high conflict cases.

Davis, L. S. (2020, November 14). [Deception and Malingering in Child Custody Cases: Research-Based Strategies](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14th Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. Presenter Dr. Davis discussed empirically supported ways to detect deception and malingering in child custody cases as well as interviewing techniques that elicit clues to deception and the role of culture in assessing credibility.

Joseph, G., & Kirby, S. (2020, November 14). [Hearing the Evidence of Children: Rights and Remedies](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14th Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. Presenters explored the various methods employed by courts to ascertain children's views and preferences, as well as the efficacy of those methods, the evidentiary issues they raise, and their potential impact on traditional therapeutic goals.

Carter, D. K. (2020, November 13). [Parenting Coordination During Custody Litigation: Challenges and Opportunities](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14th Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. This workshop discussed considerations to help guide determinations concerning when, if, and how to use parenting coordination effectively during custody litigation.

Deutsch, R., Drozd., L., & Silberman, H. (2020, November 12). [Encapsulated Delusion? How Do We Identify It and What Do We Do?](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14th Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. The presenters discussed how in some custody cases where children are resisting or refusing contact with a parent it is fueled by the other parent's unsupported underlying delusional belief about abuse of the child. The presenters also explored the psychological processes that underlie this delusional belief system, described a screening process, and explained how to differentiate cases likely to respond to treatment from those that are not by testing multiple hypotheses, and proposed a system of accountability with concrete goals for the family and for judges to consider in their orders.

Avalle, D., & Shaw, M. (2020, November 11). [Interviewing Children in Custody Evaluations When There Are Allegations of Abuse or Intimate Partner Violence](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14th Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. The presenters discussed how child custody interviews of children become complicated when allegations of intimate partner violence or child abuse are raised and how evaluators must be competent in the areas of child development, family dynamics, appropriate interviewing techniques, and trauma-focused approaches as well as provided specific tips and techniques for evaluators to implement in their interview process.

Mitnick, M., Platt, S., Walker, H., & Pruett, M. K. (2020, November 11). [Betting on the Voice of the Child in Parenting Disputes](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a plenary session presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14th Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. The presenters discussed how they feel the best interests of children are considered paramount in any parenting dispute and examined how to keep children's voices front and center, regardless of the challenges face by professionals.

Moran, J. A. (2020, November 10). [Overcoming the Alienation Crisis: A Team Model](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14th Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. The presenter discussed how he believes resist-refuse dynamics (RRD) interventions require case management among clinicians, parenting coordinators, attorneys, and judges under an innovative clinical model for overcoming RRD, which emphasizes the development of trust in the intervention team, re-establishment of coordinated co-parenting, conflict de-escalation strategies, and management of distortions and resentment.

Birnbaum, R. (2020, October 13). [Voice of the Child: An International Perspective](#) [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. This one-hour Association of Family and Conciliation Courts training seminar discussed the important role for children in post-separation decision-making. The central theme of the presenter focused on how children should be involved in the decision-making process in a way that respects their needs, interests and wishes.

Eddy, B. (2020, August 19). [Sociopaths: The Con Artists of Family Law](#) [Video on demand webinar]. This one-hour Association of Family and Conciliation Courts training seminar discussed the fundamental characteristics of parents who exhibit sociopathic and deceptive behaviors that include making false claims of abuse and misleading professionals during family counseling, family mediation, and family court proceedings.

Polak, S., & Popielarczyk, L. (2020, July 7). Responding to Severe Parent-Child Rejection Cases without a Parentectomy [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning an innovative approach to severe parent-child rejection, referred to as a Blended Sequential Intervention, that involves a reversal of care and includes a multi-day therapeutic experience for child and rejected parent, and anticipates the future involvement of the favored parent.

Bernet, W. (2020, June 25). Parental Alienation and Misinformation Proliferation [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning examples of published falsehoods and misinformation regarding both parental alienation syndrome and parental alienation. Presenter discussed practices that mental health and legal writers can adopt to reduce the destructive polarization that occurred regarding the topics of parental alienation syndrome and parental alienation.

Lorandos, D. (2020, June 18). Parental Alienation in the United States Courts: 1985-2018 [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning the extent to which the construct - Parental Alienation – has been found in US family courts and whether it was considered material, probative, relevant and admissible.

Meier, J., Milchman, M., & Geffner, R. (2020, June 16). Rhetoric and Reason in Parental Alienation Discourse [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning the presenters' theory of how alienation proponents utilize rhetorical strategies which obfuscate rather than advance the theory and practice of parental alienation assessment. Presenters discussed credible claims of alienating behaviors and invalid applications of the alienation label.

Warshak, R. A. (2020, June 11). Parental Alienation: False Positives and Myriad Concerns [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts](#)

[\(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning the complex issue of false positive identifications—mistakenly concluding that a child is alienated and that a parent has engaged in a campaign of alienating behaviors. The presenter discussed the seven criteria that distinguish negative behaviors of moderately or severely alienated children from negative behaviors that do not indicate parental alienation as well as the importance of attending to the nuances of a parent’s alienating behaviors and to judgment biases that can lead to faulty conclusions.

Saini, M., Platt, S., & Laajasalo, T. (2020, June 9). Allegations of Child Abuse During Child Custody Disputes [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning the history and current understanding of child abuse allegations within the context of child custody disputes as well as the connections of fabricated allegations to the theory of alienation and the role of gatekeeping.

Deutsch, R., Drozd, L., & Ajoku, C. (2020, June 4). Trauma-Informed Interventions in Parent-Child Contact Cases [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning parent-child contact problems that may arise in the context of high conflict separation/divorce dynamics between parents. Presenters discussed the distinction between the stressful circumstances that may arise as a result of high interparental conflict and pulls for alignment from a parent, and the real or perceived trauma as a factor which contributes to resistance or refusal of a child to have contact with a parent.

Bailey, R., & Davis, F. (2020, June 2). Polyvagal Theory in the Courtroom and Beyond [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning the role of the nervous system and how it influences the outcomes and interactions between Court professionals and participants.

Garber, B. (2020, May 19). Dynamics, Not Diagnoses: Assessing and Responding to the Best Interests of the Polarized Child [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning Dr. Garber’s collaborative, cognitive-behavioral reunification protocol for the polarized child within an ecological model of high conflict family systems.

Rawles, P. (2020, Jan 9). Child Abuse Reporting Laws: Implications for the Therapeutic Relationship from a Humanistic-Multicultural and Trauma-informed Stance (In-Person Workshop). This 7 hour workshop presented by Saybrook University reviewed the historical context for types of abuse, mandated reporters’ obligations, treatment, and implications for the therapeutic relationship.

Linda Cordisco Steele & Heather Stewart (2019, November 8). [Most common mistakes made in forensic interviews](#) [Video on demand webinar]. In National Children’s

Advocacy Center Virtual Training Center. Studied this one-hour webinar for continuing education in forensic interviewing.

Andra Chamberlin (2019, November 5). [Minimal facts interviews](#). In National Children's Advocacy Center Virtual Training Center [Video on demand webinar]. Studied this one hour webinar for continuing education in forensic interviewing.

Bernet, W., Lorandos, D., & Baker, A. J. L. (2019, November 1). *Research that Supports Parental Alienation*. AFCC Fall Conference: Integrating Research into Practice and Police: The Impact on Families and Children. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Attended this 90-minute presentation on two lines of research regarding parental alienation. The first line of research is the use of the psychological tests (such as the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire and the Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test), which measure the pathological defense mechanism of splitting, to distinguish severely alienated children from nonalienated children. The second is the analysis of hundreds of legal opinions, which demonstrate how trial and appellate courts in the US have found testimony regarding parental alienation to be material, probative, relevant, and admissible.

Drozd, L., & Saini, M. (2019, November 1). *Selection Bias in Family Law Research: Reliability at the Cost of Diversity*. AFCC Fall Conference: Integrating Research into Practice and Police: The Impact on Families and Children. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Attended this 90-minute presentation on ways to improve the quality and applicability of social science research within family law. This workshop explored the benefits and risks of stringent criteria for the inclusion of study participants, offered examples within the context of alienation and intimate partner violence, and discussed implications for using empirical evidence in the courtroom.

Maas, P., & Knop, J. A. (2019, October 30). History of Michigan's Forensic Interviewing Protocol [Video on Demand]. Michigan Justice Institute. This one hour educational webinar unpacked the history of the development and use of the Michigan Forensic Interviewing Protocol. Presenter Julie Knop provided a detailed overview and analysis of the 2017 fourth edition of the Michigan Forensic Interviewing Protocol.

Pruett, M. K., & Drozd, L. (2019, May 7). [***Not Just Alienation: Resistance, Rejection, Reintegration, and Realities of Troubled Parent-Child Relationships***](#) [Video on demand webinar]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. Studied this one hour webinar as part of continuing education for parental alienation. It addressed some of the most common assessment issues (screening for safety, strength and vulnerability issues, prior abuse, maladaptive protective gatekeeping, and mis-attuned and intrusive parenting practices) as well as describing trauma-informed treatment strategies that showed participants how to incorporate a family systems approach that emphasizes problems and solutions within the co-parent relationship, rely on evidenced informed interventions, teach adaptive coping skills, and partner with the court to hold the family accountable to measurable goals.

Brown, J. (2019, April 4). [***Suggestibility in Children: Clinical and Forensic Considerations***](#). [Video on demand webinar offered by [Palo Alto University, Continuing](#)

[& Professional Studies](#) ~ [Consolidated Continuing Education & Professional Training](#) (CONCEPT)]. Studied this one hour webinar which discussed how to conduct suggestibility assessments in clinical and forensic settings as well as explicating what the scientific literature reports about the suggestibility factors in children and adolescents.

Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) Conference (2018, August 24-25). Second International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group ([PASG](#)), Stockholm, Sweden, August 24-25, 2018. Participated in this two-day conference as a live streaming online attendee. Leading experts in parental alienation presented on the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of parental alienation.

Rappaport, S. R. (2019, September 11). *Psychological Testing in Family Law Matters*. [Live webinar]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. Attended this 1-hour CE live webinar concerning what type of questions psychological testing can answer; the use and misuse of psychological testing in custody cases; when psychological testing should be conducted in family law matters; and what various psychological tests are used in custody related matters.

Hoult, J. (2018, May 14). ***Parental Alienation (PA) & Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS): Science, Evidentiary Admissibility, Policy & Effects on Children's Constitutional and Human Rights*** [Video on demand webinar]. Federal Bar Association, Washington D.C., May 14, 2018. One hour webinar that discussed the definition and origins of parental alienation syndrome and differentiation from parental alienation; evidentiary admissibility of parental alienation in the Courts; policy considerations regarding admission of parental alienation in cases alleging domestic violence and parental child abuse; and the effect of evidentiary use of parental alienation on children's constitutional and human rights.

Saini, M. (2018, March 14). ***An evidence-informed approach to parental alienation*** [Video on demand webinar]. Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), Madison, Wisconsin. One hour webinar that highlighted some of the controversies concerning parental alienation and offered practical ways to integrate empirical research into decision making for child custody disputes where parental alienation is a factor.

Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) Conference (2017, October 21-23). First International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group ([PASG](#)), Washington, D.C. October 21-23, 2017. Attended this three-day conference on parental alienation education, litigation, and research presented leading experts in parental alienation.

Fidler, B. J. (2017, July 19). ***Parent-Child Contact Problems II: More News You Can Use***. [Video on demand webinar offered by the [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. One hour webinar which addressed critical elements of whole family interventions, including: (a) treatment objectives; (b) clinical intake/screening assessment process (including acceptance criteria) and treatment plan development; (c) treatment court orders and informed consent agreements; and, (d) fundamental interventions implemented with family members individually (child, each parent), with dyads (child with each parent and co-parents together), and with the family as a whole.

Sullivan, M. J. (2017, April 12). [Visitation Resistance](#). [Video on demand webinar]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. Studied this one hour webinar which provided an understanding of the conceptual evolution of parental alienation over the past twenty years—from Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) to refusal and resistance dynamics (RRD)—and explored the options for legal and mental health interventions. It also addressed and discussed intensive residential interventions and considerations of changing custody from the favored parent to the rejected parent as well as the typical interventions that are ineffective such as co-parent counseling and reunification therapy.

SELECTED RESEARCH & WRITING PROJECTS

Wygant, S. A. (2026, March). Reunification therapy for parental alienation: When it works and when it doesn't. *Parental Alienation International*, 11(2), 14-16.

Wygant, S. A. (2026, January). Parental alienation and the best interests of the child. *Parental Alienation International*, 11(1), 11-12.

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- Wygant, S. A. (2016). *Suicidality: Assessment and treatment strategies*. [Unpublished Research] Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan.
- Wygant, S. A. (2015). [The pitfalls and hazards of interviewing non-abused children for sexual abuse and how to avoid them](#). [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
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CASES IN WHICH MR. WYGANT HAS TESTIFIED AS AN EXPERT

1. Alley v. Alley, I2020000363 (S. Ct. Monroe Cty., NY, Sep-Nov 2021)*
2. Archibald v. Archibald, CD-DM-002766 (Dist. Ct. Harrison Cty., IA, Jun 2022)*
3. Bloom v. Ogilvie, 11-004212-DM (26th Cir. Ct. Alpena Cty., MI, Aug 2021)*
4. Calandra v. Calandra, 20-DR-186 (Dist. Ct., Broomfield Cty., CO, Apr 2022)*
5. Entwistle v. Entwistle, 24-106379-DM (Cir. Ct., Wayne Cty., MI, Jul 2025)*
6. Frueh v. Frueh, 17DR18576 (Cir. Ct., Benton Cty., OR, Jun 2019)*
7. Hale v. Colorite, 2016-2688-DM (Cir. Ct., Alcona Cty., MI, Jan 2025)*
8. Hongskula v. Triemstra, 20-DR-08698 (Cir. Ct., Multnomah Cty., OR, Oct 2023)*
9. Igel v. Igel, 18D0066196 (Super. Ct. Orange Cty., CA, Sep 2021)*
10. In re Morris, 2016-DR-30443 (Dist. Ct., Larimer Cty., CO, Nov 2023)
11. In Re the Marriage of Jessica Cross and Joseph Cross, 27-FA-17-535 (Dist. Ct. Fam. Div., Hennepin Cty., MN, Mar 2023)*
12. In re the Marriage of Miranda Salinas and Edward Salinas, Jr., 21DR31657 (Dist. Ct., El Paso Cty., CO, Nov 2022)*
13. In re the Marriage of Thomas Stocks and Michelle Stocks, 22DR1030 (Dist. Ct., Arapahoe Cty., CO, Jan 2025)*
14. In re the Matter of Bryan Callahan and Melissa Gentzler, 2016-DM-810 (Dist. Ct., Leavenworth Cty., KS, Apr 2023)*
15. In re the Matter of Eric Lee, DHS-MD-51-22-21760 / 211-020148120 (OAH, MD, Dec 2023)*
16. In re the Parental Responsibilities concerning A.L.R., 16DR30608 (Dist. Ct. Arapahoe Cty., CO., Dec 2025)*

17. Kain v. Kain, 2019-053231-DM(S) (Cir. Ct. Lapeer Cty., MI, Mar 2022)*
18. McLeod v. McLeod, 2022-005081-DM (Cir. Ct., Montmorency Cty., MI, Nov 2025)*
19. Medeiros v. Roberts-Gust, 2016-722878-DC (Cir. Ct., Roscommon Cty., MI, Apr 2024)*
20. Oginsky v. Oginsky, 2016-84255-DM (Cir. Ct., Oakland Cty., Dec 2022)*
21. Olcott v. Phegley, 3KN-14-00845CI (Super. Ct. Kenai, AK, Apr 2021)*
22. Orandi v. Orandi, 19-01867-DM (Cir. Ct., Kent Cty., MI, Oct 2024)*
23. Parm v. Parm, 21-03008-DM (Cir. Ct., Kent Cty., MI, Jul 2025)*
24. Pruett v. Pruett, 3KN-18-00062-CI (Super. Ct. Kenai, AK, Mar 2022)*
25. Rogers v. Rogers, CV-FL-13-0177034-000 (Super. Ct. Shasta Cty., CA, Mar 2019)*
26. Stanfill v. Huse, 19-DR-22882 (Douglas Cty. Ct., OR, Feb 2025)*
27. Swander v. Zaveral, 20-010818-DC (Cir. Ct., Crawford Cty., MI, Jan 2026)*
28. VanAndel v. VanAndel, 2017-16385-DM (Manistee Cty. Cir. Ct., MI, Feb 2024)*
29. Wilson v. Sinclair, FC-19-1195-00 (Super. Ct., Ontario, Canada, Nov 2021)*
30. Wirsz v. Ocasio, D-14-504053-P (Dist. Ct. Fam. Div., Clark Cty., NV, Mar 2023)*
31. Yeung v. Yeung, FS-22-00029169-0000 (Super. Ct., Toronto, Canada, Feb 2024)*
32. Dependency of Sawyer Lippert, 22-7-00211-06 (Super. Ct. Juvenile Div., Clark Cty., WA, May 2023)**
33. In re Bachman, 18-15801-NA (Cir. Ct. Livingston Cty., MI Apr 2022)**
34. In re N.M., 0N71654S312 (Super. Ct., San Diego Cty., CA, Feb 2023)**
35. In the Interest of Broadway, October Coven Kaci, 2021-30804-CJCI (Cir. Ct. Volusia Cty., FL, Dec 2022)**
36. In the Interest of CC-Smith, C.C.-Smith, E.C.-Smith, & R.C.-Smith, 2017528122 (Cty. Ct. Lubbock, TX, Feb 2022)**
37. In the Interest of Nino, Joshua, 2020-10515-CJDL (Cir. Ct. Volusia Cty., FL, Nov 2021)**
38. In the Interest of W. & C. Weeks, 21-JV-63 (Weld County, CO, Nov 2023)**
39. In the Matter of the Inman Children, 2017-15524-NA (Livingston Cty., MI, Jul 2025)**
40. Between: Minister of Social Development and D.A. and K.D.G.H., FDW-16-2024 (King's Bench, New Brunswick, Canada, Sep 2024)**
41. Commonwealth of Virginia v. Jacob O'Hannon, FE-2021-557, FE-2021-558 (Cir. Ct. Fairfax Cty., VA, Sep 2022)***

42. Commonwealth of Virginia v. Michael Cash, JA027387-01 et seq. -07 (Cir. Ct. Rockingham Cty., VA, 2024)
43. Commonwealth of Virginia v. Trent Passarelli, CR 23-417, CR 23-418 (Cir. Ct. Rockingham Cty., VA, 2024)
44. In the Matter of Christian Robles, 24-0018-DL (Cir. Ct., Iron Cty., MI, Jul 2025)***
45. People v. Cary, 21-10028-FH (41st Cir. Ct., Iron Cty., MI, Apr 2023)***
46. People v. Reynoso-Lozano, CR-2201046 (Super. Ct., Humboldt Cty., CA, Jun 2023)***
47. State of Georgia v. Gustavo Salazar, 17SC152011 (Super. Ct. Fulton Cty, GA, May 2023)***
48. State of Iowa v. Jonathan William Johll, FECR149601 (Dist. Ct. Dubuque Cty., IA 2024)***
49. State v. Bostic, D-DC-19-500149 (Dist. Ct. Travis Cty., TX, Mar 2022)***
50. Albritton v. Albritton, 190600015 (6th Dist. Ct. Sevier Cty., UT, Jun 2020)****

* *Custody / Access*

** *Dependency*

*** *Criminal*

**** *Tort*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

<u>American Bar Association</u>	2011-Present
<u>American College of Forensic Psychology</u>	2024-Present
<u>American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children</u>	2019-Present
<u>American Psychological Association</u>	2021-Present
<u>American Psychology-Law Society (APA Div. 41)</u>	2019-Present
<u>Association of Family and Conciliation Courts</u>	2018-Present
<u>California Psychological Association</u>	2019-Present
<u>Michigan Psychological Association</u>	2024-Present
<u>Parental Alienation Study Group</u>	2017-Present
<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Methods (APA Div. 5)</u>	2022-Present
<u>Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (APA Div. 37)</u>	2023-Present
<u>Society for Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science (APA Div. 3)</u>	2023-Present
<u>Society for Humanistic Psychology (APA Div. 32)</u>	2019-Present
<u>Trauma Psychology (APA Div. 56)</u>	2022-Present