

Delegate Atterbeary,

I am very confused and concerned about the inclusion of 9-101.3(B)(11) in this bill. I am hopeful that you can explain your rationale about the inclusion of the following in the Bill.

(11) PARENTAL ALIENATION, INCLUDING:

(I) THE ORIGINS OF PARENTAL ALIENATION;
(II) THE INVALIDITY OF PARENTAL ALIENATION AS A SYNDROME; AND
(III) THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF THE USE OF PARENTAL ALIENATION IN CHILD CUSTODY CASES;

As a victim of Parental Alienation, with a teenage son who is the victim of Child Alienation, I was extremely hurt, upset, and disappointed to see this in the Bill. I wholeheartedly agree that judges should receive training for child abuse and domestic violence in child custody cases, but the inclusion of Section 11 is both counter-productive and devastating.

By including this section in the bill you are sponsoring, it actually serves the opposite purpose of the bill's intention - by endorsing a form of child abuse. The simple fact is that Parental Alienation is emotional child abuse. There are no visible scars, but the emotional scars in the children who are victims of Parental Alienation run deep. It is typically perpetrated by parents with personality disorders, usually Narcissistic Personality Disorder or Borderline Personality Disorder.

Courts are already minimizing the existence and effects of Parental Alienation. This Bill allows that practice not only to continue, but condones it. I firmly believe Parental Alienation Syndrome is both real and valid. Even more strongly, I know that the use of Parental Alienation in custody cases is not only appropriate, but necessary. Yet, your bill would state the exact opposite - that the use of Parental Alienation in child custody cases is inappropriate.

I have plenty more to say about this subject. I have my personal nightmare that I have been living for the past 5 1/2 years without my son. I can never properly explain the heartache it has inflicted on my family and me. I can tell you, however, that a piece of me is missing and won't ever return unless and until my son does one day.

What I am looking to understand from you is your rationale for including this section in Bill 1036. I am hopeful that we can have a discussion about that. I truly appreciate your consideration and response to my concerns. I had a wonderful conversation with your Aide about my concerns. I am hopeful to hear back from you personally very soon.

I wanted to attach a 21-second video to my written testimony along with this letter when I signed up to testify. However, despite being short, it is too large to attach. I am hopeful that I'll be able to share it during my oral testimony.

The video is my alienated son and, my younger son, his little brother, who my wife and I had when my older son was nine years old. I shot this video in August 2015. One month later, on September 21, 2015, my ex wife took my older son from us, claiming he was "deathly afraid" of us and he has never since returned to our house. My younger son was not even two years old when she took his brother away. He is now seven and has not seen his big brother since September 21, 2015. He has no independent memories of his big brother. This video represents the face of the real life effects of Parental Alienation.

Sincerely,

Mike Fiol