

WHY IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE ALIENATOR TO CLAIM INNOCENCE FROM ENGAGING IN THE PAS WHEN SHE/HE STATES: "I don't interfere with my child's relationship with the other parent. My child's thoughts and feelings are her/his own."

Alienating parents will support their children's denigration and offensive actions by bestowing unjustifiable praise upon them for having "minds of their own," the "courage" to express their feelings and thoughts, and the capacity to follow through with "self-protective" actions. In service to the charade of independence, alienating parents affirm that they refrain from making derogatory remarks to their children about the targeted parent, that they do not engage in behaviors which undermine the other parent's relationships with their children, and that they do not model for their children maltreatment of the targeted parent. Even when alienating parents acknowledge that they harbor animosity for their former partners, they nonetheless profess that they employ great restraint in concealing from their children their negative feelings. They further assert that they employ heroic and extraordinary efforts to support and encourage their children's visits with the other parent. Ultimately, the alienator concedes failure in overcoming their child's "independent and sovereign" resistance to having a relationship with their targeted parent.

I concur that children---as with everyone----are entitled to their feelings, but they do not have a right to act inappropriately because of those feelings. They must be taught by their parents to sublimate hostile feelings so that they learn how to function in our culture. This means that they cannot use such feelings to justify behaving in a disrespectful and abusive manner. It is, additionally, a parental responsibility to guide children to make responsible decisions; and in areas of significant magnitude, such as attending school, keeping medical appointments, AND VISITING WITH THE OTHER PARENT, it is

within the scope of parental authority to decide. Some alienating parents discussed in this book disagree with my position: they fail to appreciate the importance of the relationship between their children and the other parent. These alienating parents thereby demonstrated a disingenuous "encouragement" of their children's selective declarations of independence by sanctioning their visit refusal; and the children's visit refusal satisfied the clandestine needs and wishes of their alienating parents. And so goes the complementarity of the symbiotic relationship between the alienating parent and child. The assertion by the alienating parent that she/he is encouraging her/his child's independence of spirit and cognitive development is merely a ruse which conceals the covert desire to sever the relationship between the other parent and their children. The professed helplessness of alienating parents to persuade their "independently thinking" children to maintain their relationship with their targeted parent is a deception: in actuality, alienating parents are quite effective in manipulating their children to do their bidding.

This family therapist asserts that it **is** the job of parents to shape their children's attitudes, feelings, and behaviors. It **is** the job of parents to socialize their children----beginning in the family. So even when alienating parents doth protest innocence in **causing** their children's vile attitudes, feelings, and behaviors for their targeted parents, alienating parents nonetheless have a responsibility **to correct** their children's vile attitudes, feelings, and behaviors. They cannot be absolved from this responsibility.

When it comes to the symptom of the "independent thinker phenomenon," the germane issue is not whether the alienating parent has been culpable in influencing the child's vile attitudes, feelings, and behaviors towards the targeted parent; the germane issue is that it

is the responsibility of the alienating parent to utilize her/his parental authority to correct the child's "horrific" attitudes, feelings, and behaviors towards the targeted parent and to encourage that relationship.