

Parental alienation: Sample Court Checklist

"17 Strategies"

This checklist should be used by legal and other professionals and a copy should be made available to the court,

I suggest it be used by -

- i. Legal professionals on both sides during an interview with their clients, with tick boxes and notes "Do you .." and "Does he/she.."
- ii. Evaluation professionals can add a third and fourth tick box for use when interviewing the child "Does the alienating party ..." does the target parent ...
- iii. Therapists and supporters will use it to "remind the client..."
- iv. Law enforcement to confirm that the alienating party
 - i. attempted to procure the abandonment of the child and
 - ii. highlight the cruel treatment of the child and
 - iii. reckless endangerment of the child.

Note: In most documents and lectures an alienating party is only referred to as the other parent. Do not stare yourself blind on this and start realising that the alienating party is the caring party and it can be a foster parent, another family member, ex-friend, children's home or the State.

Also note: Not all the strategies need to be present. A once-off action is also not a sign of attempted alienation.

Amy J.L. Baker, PhD and Paul R. Fine, LCSW compiled a list of 17 strategies that parents alienate their child from the other parent in an article called Beyond the High Road, downloadable legally on this page.

Strategy 1: Badmouthing

Strategy 2: Limiting Contact

- Strategy 3: Interfering with Communication
- Strategy 4: Interfering with Symbolic Communication

Strategy 5: Withdrawal of Love

Strategy 6: Telling Child Targeted Parent(s) Does Not Love Him or Her

Strategy 7: Forcing Child to Choose

Strategy 8: Creating the Impression that the Targeted Parent(s) is Dangerous

Strategy 9: Confiding in Child

Strategy 10: Forcing Child to Reject Targeted Parent(s)

Strategy 11: Asking Child to Spy on Targeted Parent(s)

Strategy 12: Asking Child to Keep Secrets from Targeted Parent(s)

Strategy 13: Referring to Targeted Parent(s) by First Name

Strategy 14: Referring to a Stepparent or caring parent as "Mom" or "Dad" and Encouraging Child to Do the Same

Strategy 15: Withholding Medical, Academic, and Other Important Information from Targeted Parent(s) / Keeping Targeted Parent(s)' Name off of Medical, Academic, and Other Relevant Documents

Strategy 16: Changing Child's Name to Remove Association with Targeted Parent(s)

Strategy 17: Cultivating Dependency

This checklist could be used by the attorneys and the judge in understanding the situation and also the proof as presented by the alienated parent(s).

Listen to Kelly Baker explain Amy Baker's points here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUelNu2G9RU

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