

 <p>Oupa Joe (Andries van Tonder) Still serving when possible</p>	<p>Take Notice: Information supplied based on our opinion reading - The Constitution, Conventions, law, Case Law, Rules, Regulations and Standards in the Republic of Ireland only. This sheet is drafted by lay litigants and might not be correct.</p> <p>This is not legal advice, but the opinion of the author(s). Please consult your legal advisor</p>
<p>Version 1 – for PAAA= Revision 1 – spelling and Banner – Add Parental alienation and “The malign influence of cults” Also clarifying the matte AM</p>	<p>18 January 2015 Andries van Tonder 22 February 2021</p>

Parental Alienation mimics a cult

General information

Defining a cult (briefly):

1. a system of religious veneration and devotion directed towards a particular figure or object,
or
a relatively small group of people having religious beliefs or practices regarded by others as strange or as imposing excessive control over members,
or
a misplaced or excessive admiration for a particular thing.
2. a person or thing that is popular or fashionable among a particular group or section of society.

Defining parental alienation:

Note:

1. Many persons and organisations neglect to note in their definitions and publications that parental alienation is not only present in toxic or piranha separations, but also in other instances and are practised by non-parents in many instances.
2. There are several definitions of parental alienation as outlined in different enactment in other jurisdiction, in court rulings and dicta, academia, organisations and individuals. I prefer to use this definition:

Parental alienation is the act or omission of any person or caring party on a child to prevent, disturb, injure or destroy the natural bonding or existing bond between a child and a parent. This is achieved by either, or a combination of, moral neglect, moral abuse, emotional neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse, other abusive action.

Cult	Parental alienation
"Cult" or "sect" is a pejorative label used to discriminate against "new religious movements."	"Parental Alienation" is a pejorative label used to discriminate against "caring parent protecting a child."
Members and practitioners of cults or sects are seeking to either eliminate that description or ignore it.	People practising parental alienation are seeking to either eliminate that description or ignore it.

Some academics with close ties to such groups have become little more than apologists, labelling the word "cult" a curse	Some academics who also practice parental alienation or who has close ties to such groups have become little more than apologists, labelling the term "parental alienation" as a curse
Some cults are started by an individual or group for the sole purpose of twisting the believes of the followers into the believes of the leader(s). E.g. The "Jim Jones" cult openly preached "brotherly love" and prowess at "spiritual healing" without mentioning the Temple's Marxist goals	Many cases of parental alienation are started by an individual with the sole purpose of twisting the child's beliefs of the alienating party. The alienating party preaches love and caring without mentioning the hate, possible greed and true aims in the action.
The most salient concern to the general public, law enforcement and government officials today regarding groups called "cults" is what potential they might represent to do harm.	The most salient concern to the general public, law enforcement, government officials and target persons regarding "alienating parties" is that alienating parties are causing serious harm to children and target parties.
Many cults are started by an individual or group for the sole purpose of enriching itself, raising huge amounts of money and benefits, before suddenly disbanding. One example was the "The Invisible Church" of Nelson Nurse who raised enough money for him and his family to emigrate to Australia where he lived his life out as an artist.	Many cases of parental alienation are initiated by a "Piranha Parent" for the sole purpose of enriching itself, raising huge amounts of money and benefits, before suddenly disappearing. One example was the matter of JM et al v. AM where AM raised enough money for herself to build a large "nest egg", and to live a comfortable life after she managed to raise "maintenance for 9 children from 4 fathers. Only 3 of them fathered one child each". She also got three family homes in her name after the divorces and sold the houses for her sole benefit.

Cult formation

	Cult	Parental alienation
1	<p>The leader requires excessive devotion and to be the centre</p> <p>A charismatic leader, who increasingly becomes an object of worship as the general principles that may have originally sustained the group lose power. That is a living leader, who has no meaningful accountability and becomes the single most defining element of the group and its source of power and authority.</p>	<p>An alienating party coerce the child to accept that it is "the only parent that loves and cares". The child is indoctrinated that it needs the party to survive, be happy and to feel good about itself.</p>
2	<p>The leader uses emotional manipulation to increase dependency.</p> <p>A process [of indoctrination or education is in use that can be seen as] coercive persuasion or thought reform [commonly called "brainwashing"].</p> <p>The culmination of this process can be seen by members of the group often doing things that are not in their own best interest, but consistently in the best interest of the group and its leader.</p>	<p>An alienating parent coerce the child to believe that the other our other parent and their family are dangerous and do not care for you.</p>
3	<p>The members must sacrifice their own needs for the benefit of the leader.</p> <p>Economic, sexual, and other exploitation of group members by the leader and the ruling coterie.</p> <p>The destructiveness of groups called cults varies by degree, from labour violations, child abuse, medical neglect to, in some extreme and isolated situations, calls for violence or mass suicide.</p>	<p>You have to sacrifice your relationship with the other parent and if you pursue a relationship with the other parent or its family, you jeopardize the relationship with me.</p>

Ten warning signs

Some groups may not fit the definition of a cult but may pose potential risks for participants. Here are 10 warning signs of a potentially unsafe group or leader.

- Absolute authoritarianism without meaningful accountability.
- No tolerance for questions or critical inquiry.
- No meaningful financial disclosure regarding budget or expenses, such as an independently audited financial statement.
- Unreasonable fear about the outside world, such as impending catastrophe, evil conspiracies and persecutions.
- There is no legitimate reason to leave, former followers are always wrong in leaving, negative or even evil.
- Former members often relate the same stories of abuse and reflect a similar pattern of grievances.
- There are records, books, news articles, or broadcast reports that document the abuses of the group/leader.
- Followers feel they can never be "good enough".
- The group/leader is always right.
- The group/leader is the exclusive means of knowing "truth" or receiving validation, no other process of discovery is really acceptable or credible.

Parental alienation and the malign influence of cults – Take notice

- Both of these featured in *Re S (Parental Alienation: Cult)* [2020] EWCA Civ 568 (29 April 2020). This is good reading.

Clarifying the Piranha AM:

AM refer to the piranha mother

F1 to F4 refer to the fathers involved

C1 to C3 refer to the children involved

1. AM entered a relationship with F1
 - a) C1 was born
 - b) The relationship broke down
 - c) AM claimed and was awarded maintenance for C1 from F1.
2. AM married F2
 - a) F2 adopted C1, not knowing the true facts
 - b) AM gave birth to C2.
 - c) The relationship broke down
 - d) AM claimed and was awarded maintenance for C2, as biological child, and C1 as adopted child.
 - e) AM was awarded the family home as she was caring for C1 and C2.
3. AM married F3
 - a) F3 adopted C1 and C2, not knowing the true facts
 - b) AM gave birth to C3.
 - c) The relationship broke down
 - d) AM claimed and was awarded maintenance for C3, as biological child, and C2 and C1, as adopted children.
 - e) AM was awarded the family home as she was caring for C1, C2 and C3.
4. AM married F4
 - a) F4 adopted C1, C2 and C3, not knowing the true facts

- b) The relationship broke down
 - c) AM claimed and was awarded maintenance for C3 and C2 and C1, as adopted children.
 - d) AM was awarded the family home as she was caring for C1, C2 and C3.
5. It also came to light that AM received state benefits for the children, single parent allowance per child and council housing while she rented out the houses she got during divorce proceedings.
6. About maintenance:
- a) F1 paid an average of € 25 per week for 1 child
 - b) F2 paid an average of € 31 per week per child for 2 kids
 - c) F3 paid an average of € 50 per week per child for 3 kids
 - d) F4 paid an average of € 22 per week per child for 3 kids

At one stage AM had an income of €1,331 per week paying only €81 for rent while all 3 of her children were either in care or juvenile detention.

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