

child refuses reunification therapy

child refuses reunification therapy is a challenging situation faced by many families experiencing high-conflict divorce or separation. When a child resists or outright refuses to participate in reunification therapy, both parents and professionals often feel frustrated and uncertain about the best course of action. This article provides a comprehensive overview of why children may refuse reunification therapy, the psychological and legal factors involved, strategies for parents and therapists, and what the refusal might mean for future family dynamics. Readers will gain a deeper understanding of the reasons behind a child's resistance, learn practical ways to respond, and discover expert insights for navigating this complex issue. Whether you are a parent, therapist, or legal professional, this guide offers valuable information and actionable advice to help you better manage the situation when a child refuses reunification therapy.

- Understanding Reunification Therapy in Family Law
- Reasons Why a Child Refuses Reunification Therapy
- Legal Implications of Therapy Refusal
- Psychological Impact on Children and Parents
- Strategies for Parents When a Child Refuses Therapy
- Therapist Approaches to Overcoming Resistance
- Alternative Solutions and Support Options
- Frequently Asked Questions

Understanding Reunification Therapy in Family Law

Reunification therapy is a specialized intervention designed to repair and restore the relationship between a child and a parent after a period of estrangement or parental alienation. Typically ordered by family courts, reunification therapy aims to facilitate healthy communication, rebuild trust, and address the underlying causes of family conflict. Therapists use evidence-based techniques to guide both the child and the estranged parent through structured sessions, gradually promoting positive interactions and emotional healing. While the process can be effective, it relies on the willingness of all parties to participate, which becomes problematic when a child refuses reunification therapy.

Family law professionals recognize reunification therapy as a critical tool for addressing the complex emotional and relational challenges that arise during divorce, custody disputes, and parental alienation. However, resistance from children can complicate the process, leading to delays or even legal ramifications. Understanding the foundations of reunification therapy helps families and professionals approach the situation with greater clarity and empathy.

Reasons Why a Child Refuses Reunification Therapy

Emotional Distress and Trauma

One of the most common reasons a child refuses reunification therapy is emotional distress or trauma related to the estranged parent. Children may feel anxious, fearful, or angry due to past experiences, such as parental conflict, neglect, or perceived abandonment. These feelings can lead to a strong reluctance to engage in therapy sessions, especially if the child associates them with uncomfortable or distressing emotions.

Influence of the Other Parent

In some cases, the child's refusal may be influenced by the beliefs, attitudes, or behaviors of the other parent. If the custodial parent is unsupportive of reunification or exhibits negative feelings toward the estranged parent, the child may internalize these sentiments and resist therapy as a form of loyalty or self-protection. Parental alienation can further exacerbate this dynamic, making it difficult for children to feel safe or motivated to participate.

Lack of Trust or Comfort with the Therapist

Therapeutic success depends on the establishment of trust between the child and therapist. If the child does not feel comfortable, understood, or respected during sessions, they may refuse to continue. This lack of connection can stem from previous negative experiences with therapy, cultural or personality differences, or a mismatch in therapeutic approach.

Developmental and Age-Related Factors

Children of different ages respond to reunification therapy in distinct ways. Adolescents, in particular, may assert their independence by refusing therapy, while younger children may struggle to articulate their feelings or understand the purpose of the sessions. Developmental stages, cognitive maturity, and emotional resilience all play a role in a child's willingness to participate.

Legal Implications of Therapy Refusal

Court Orders and Compliance

When reunification therapy is court-ordered, refusal by the child can place both the child and the custodial parent in a complex legal position. Courts expect compliance with their orders, and non-participation may result in legal consequences for the parent considered responsible for facilitating therapy. Judges may interpret refusal as non-cooperation, potentially impacting custody arrangements or visitation rights.

Assessment of Child's Best Interests

Family courts prioritize the best interests of the child in custody and therapy decisions. When a child refuses therapy, the court may order psychological evaluations to determine the underlying causes and assess whether continued therapy is appropriate. The refusal can influence judicial decisions regarding future parenting plans, custody modifications, or therapeutic alternatives.

Possible Legal Outcomes

- Modification of custody or visitation agreements
- Mandated compliance measures for parents
- Appointment of a guardian ad litem or child advocate
- Requirement for further psychological assessment
- Consideration of alternative therapeutic interventions

Psychological Impact on Children and Parents

Effects on the Child

Refusal to participate in reunification therapy can be both a symptom and a source of psychological distress for children. The ongoing conflict and pressure to reconcile may exacerbate anxiety, depression, and behavioral issues. Children may also experience guilt, confusion, and divided loyalties, which can hinder emotional development and well-being.

Effects on Parents

Parents involved in reunification therapy often experience heightened stress, frustration, and helplessness when their child refuses to engage. The estranged parent may feel rejected or unfairly blamed, while the custodial parent may worry about court repercussions or the child's emotional health. These feelings can strain parent-child relationships and further complicate family dynamics.

Family System Dynamics

The refusal of therapy impacts the entire family system, reinforcing patterns of conflict and mistrust. Siblings, extended family members, and even professionals may become entangled in the struggle, making resolution more difficult. Recognizing the psychological impact on all parties is essential for developing effective interventions and support strategies.

Strategies for Parents When a Child Refuses Therapy

Open Communication and Active Listening

Parents should prioritize open communication with their child, expressing empathy and validating their feelings about reunification therapy. Active listening helps children feel understood and respected, which may reduce resistance over time.

Encouraging Participation Without Pressure

While compliance with court orders is important, applying excessive pressure can backfire and deepen a child's resistance. Parents are encouraged to gently encourage participation, emphasizing the benefits of therapy and addressing any fears or misconceptions.

Seeking Support and Resources

- Consulting with mental health professionals
- Participating in parent education programs
- Utilizing family support groups
- Accessing legal guidance

Support networks can provide parents with practical tools, emotional reassurance, and expert advice during this challenging process.

Therapist Approaches to Overcoming Resistance

Building Rapport and Trust

Therapists play a crucial role in helping children overcome resistance to reunification therapy. By building rapport, demonstrating empathy, and respecting the child's boundaries, therapists can foster a sense of safety and openness. Establishing trust may require creative engagement techniques tailored to the child's interests and developmental stage.

Addressing Underlying Concerns

Effective therapy addresses the root causes of a child's refusal, such as unresolved trauma, fear, or parental conflict. Therapists may use individual sessions, trauma-informed practices, or family interventions to help children process their emotions and gradually participate in reunification efforts.

Collaborative Work with Families

Therapists often collaborate with both parents to align goals, clarify expectations, and ensure that reunification therapy is conducted in a respectful and supportive manner. Coordinated efforts between all parties can increase the likelihood of positive outcomes.

Alternative Solutions and Support Options

Exploring Other Therapeutic Modalities

If reunification therapy is not feasible due to a child's refusal, families may benefit from alternative interventions such as individual counseling, group therapy, or child advocacy services. These options can address emotional needs and facilitate gradual reconciliation outside the formal structure of reunification therapy.

Utilizing Mediation and Conflict Resolution Services

Family mediators and conflict resolution specialists can help parents navigate disputes, improve communication, and develop mutually agreeable solutions. Mediation may reduce tension and create a more conducive environment for future therapeutic efforts.

Long-Term Support and Monitoring

Ongoing support from mental health professionals, educators, and legal advocates can provide families with the resources needed to address challenges over time. Monitoring progress and adjusting strategies as needed ensures that children's needs remain at the forefront of any intervention.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is reunification therapy and why do courts order it?

A: Reunification therapy is a specialized counseling process intended to rebuild the relationship between a child and an estranged parent. Courts often order it in cases of high-conflict divorce or parental alienation to promote healthy family dynamics and ensure the child's emotional well-being.

Q: Why might a child refuse reunification therapy?

A: Children may refuse therapy due to emotional distress, fear, loyalty to the custodial parent, lack of trust in the therapist, or unresolved trauma. Age and developmental factors can also influence a child's willingness to participate.

Q: What can parents do if their child refuses reunification therapy?

A: Parents should engage in open communication, seek support from mental health professionals, avoid applying excessive pressure, and explore alternative therapy options if necessary. Consulting legal and therapeutic experts is also recommended.

Q: Are there legal consequences if a child refuses court-ordered reunification therapy?

A: Yes, refusal may affect custody arrangements or lead to court-ordered compliance measures. Courts assess each case individually, considering the reasons for refusal and the child's best interests.

Q: How can therapists help children overcome resistance to reunification therapy?

A: Therapists build trust, address underlying fears, and tailor their approach to the child's needs. Collaboration with both parents and trauma-informed practices are vital for overcoming resistance.

Q: What alternatives exist if reunification therapy is unsuccessful?

A: Alternatives include individual counseling, family mediation, group therapy, or child advocacy services. These approaches can provide emotional support and address family dynamics outside reunification therapy.

Q: Is parental alienation a common reason for therapy refusal?

A: Yes, parental alienation can strongly influence a child's refusal, as children may feel pressured to reject or fear the estranged parent due to the other parent's influence.

Q: Can refusal of reunification therapy affect the child's long-term mental health?

A: Refusal can indicate deeper emotional issues and may contribute to ongoing psychological distress, anxiety, or family conflict. Professional support is crucial for safeguarding the child's mental health.

Q: What is the role of the custodial parent when a child refuses therapy?

A: The custodial parent is responsible for supporting compliance with court orders, facilitating open dialogue, and ensuring the child's emotional needs are met during the reunification process.

Q: How do courts determine the best interests of the child in therapy refusal cases?

A: Courts consider psychological evaluations, the reasons for refusal, family history, and expert recommendations to determine what is in the child's best interests. Decisions aim to protect the child's emotional and developmental well-being.

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Child Refuses Reunification Therapy: Understanding Resistance and Finding Solutions

Is your child resisting reunification therapy? The process of reuniting families after separation can be emotionally charged, and a child's refusal to participate can be incredibly distressing for everyone involved. This comprehensive guide explores the reasons behind a child's resistance to reunification therapy, offering strategies for parents and therapists to navigate this challenging situation and foster a successful reunification. We'll delve into the emotional impact, potential underlying issues, and effective approaches to help your child heal and reconnect with their family.

Understanding the Roots of Resistance: Why a Child Might Refuse Therapy

A child's refusal to engage in reunification therapy isn't simply about being stubborn; it stems from deep-seated emotions and experiences. Understanding these underlying factors is crucial for effective intervention.

Trauma and Fear:

Perhaps the most significant reason is past trauma. Separation from a parent, even temporarily, can be traumatic for a child, leaving them feeling abandoned, betrayed, or deeply insecure. The therapy itself might trigger these feelings, causing resistance as a self-preservation mechanism. They may fear further hurt or disappointment.

Anger and Resentment:

Children might harbor anger towards the parent they've been separated from, particularly if the separation involved conflict, abuse, or neglect. This anger can manifest as refusal to participate in any process aimed at reconciliation. They might feel unfairly punished or resent the circumstances that led to the separation.

Loss of Trust:

A broken trust in adults, especially parents or authority figures, is a major obstacle. If a child feels betrayed or let down in the past, they may be hesitant to trust the therapist or the process of reunification, fearing further disappointment or manipulation.

Developmental Stage:

A child's developmental stage significantly impacts their ability to process and express complex emotions. Younger children might struggle to articulate their feelings, leading to behavioral resistance. Older children may exhibit more sophisticated forms of resistance, like passive aggression or outright refusal.

Lack of Understanding:

Sometimes, children simply don't understand the purpose or process of reunification therapy. A lack of clear and age-appropriate explanation can lead to anxiety and resistance. They need to grasp the goals and feel safe and empowered throughout the process.

Strategies for Addressing Child Resistance in Reunification Therapy

Navigating a child's refusal requires a multifaceted approach, emphasizing patience, understanding, and collaboration between parents and therapists.

Building Trust and Rapport:

The foundation of success lies in establishing a trusting relationship with the child. This requires patience, active listening, and creating a safe space where the child feels comfortable expressing their feelings without judgment. The therapist plays a crucial role in building this rapport.

Addressing Underlying Issues:

Therapy should focus on addressing the root causes of the resistance. This might involve individual therapy for the child to process trauma, anger, or grief. Family therapy can help address communication breakdowns and improve family dynamics.

Age-Appropriate Communication:

Explain the therapy process in a way that the child can understand. Use age-appropriate language, and avoid overwhelming them with complex details. Involve the child in decisions whenever possible to foster a sense of control and empowerment.

Gradual Introduction to Therapy:

Start with shorter sessions, and gradually increase the duration and intensity as the child becomes more comfortable. Focus on building positive experiences rather than pushing them into intense emotional work.

Parental Involvement and Cooperation:

Parents play a vital role in the success of reunification therapy. They need to actively participate in therapy sessions, follow the therapist's recommendations, and model healthy behaviors and communication. Consistency and cooperation are paramount.

Seeking Professional Help:

If the resistance persists, seeking help from a qualified child psychologist or psychiatrist specializing in family reunification is essential. They can provide a comprehensive assessment, develop an individualized treatment plan, and offer specialized support to both the child and the family.

Conclusion

A child's refusal of reunification therapy is a complex issue that requires patience, understanding, and a collaborative effort from parents, therapists, and other support systems. By addressing underlying emotional issues, building trust, and employing effective communication strategies, it's possible to overcome resistance and facilitate a successful reunification. Remember that progress takes time, and setbacks are a normal part of the process. Seek professional help when needed, and maintain hope throughout the journey.

FAQs

1. How long does it typically take to overcome a child's resistance to reunification therapy? There's no set timeframe. It depends on the child's age, the severity of the underlying issues, and the effectiveness of the intervention. Progress can be gradual, and it's crucial to maintain patience and consistency.
2. What if my child refuses to even talk to the therapist? Start by building rapport outside the formal therapy setting. Engage in activities the child enjoys and create a safe and non-judgmental space for communication. The therapist can also use play therapy or other creative methods to engage the child.
3. Are there any specific techniques therapists use to help children overcome resistance? Therapists employ various techniques depending on the child's needs, including play therapy, art therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), trauma-informed therapy, and family systems therapy.
4. Can medication help with a child's resistance to reunification therapy? In some cases, medication might be considered if the child has underlying mental health conditions contributing to their resistance. This should always be done under the guidance of a psychiatrist or other qualified medical professional.
5. What if reunification is ultimately unsuccessful despite therapy? While reunification is the goal, it's important to prioritize the child's well-being. If reunification isn't possible, alternative arrangements must be made to ensure the child's safety, stability, and access to ongoing support. This may involve other forms of ongoing therapeutic intervention for both the child and parents.

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unique, evidence-based treatment manual for repairing parent-child relationships Childhood problems are often related to and worsened by the disintegration of the family structure, whether through parental separation and divorce, military service, or incarceration. Reunification therapy is a therapeutic process incorporating different empirically based methods (CBT, humanistic, and systemic) to help repair relationships between parents and children and restore not only physical contact but also meaningful social, emotional, and interpersonal exchanges between parents and children. This unique manual, bringing together the vast experience of the author, outlines the many situations numerous families currently face and why the need for reunification therapy exists. The therapist works firstly with the individual family members and then with all the family in conjoint sessions. The manual expertly guides clinicians through pretreatment decisions and processes to enable them to decide where, when, and in what form reunification therapy is appropriate, taking into account ethical, legal and special family issues. Detailed chapters outline the structure and issues for the individual and conjoint sessions, as well as a step-by-step treatment plan template. Additional tools in the Appendix enable clinicians to monitor and effectuate change

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work in his forty years of practice. Rules of Estrangement gives parents the language and the emotional tools to engage in meaningful conversation with their child, the framework to cultivate a healthy relationship moving forward, and the ability to move on if reconciliation is no longer possible. While estrangement is a complex and tender topic, Dr. Coleman's insightful approach is based on empathy and understanding for both the parent and the adult child.

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child refuses reunification therapy: Parental Alienation, DSM-5, and ICD-11 William Bernet, 2010 Parental alienation is an important phenomenon that mental health professionals should know about and thoroughly understand, especially those who work with children, adolescents, divorced adults, and adults whose parents divorced when they were children. In this book, the authors define parental alienation as a mental condition in which a child - usually one whose parents are engaged in a high- conflict divorce - allies himself or herself strongly with one parent (the preferred parent) and rejects a relationship with the other parent (the alienated parent) without legitimate justification. This process leads to a tragic outcome when the child and the alienated parent, who previously had a loving and mutually satisfying relationship, lose the nurture and joy of that relationship for many years and perhaps for their lifetimes. We estimate that 1 percent of children and adolescents in the U.S. experience parental alienation. When the phenomenon is properly recognized, this condition is preventable and treatable in many instances. The authors of this book believe that parental alienation is not simply a minor aberration in the life of a family, but a serious mental condition. Because of the false belief that the alienated parent is a dangerous or unworthy person, the child loses one of the most important relationships in his or her life. This book contains much information about the validity, reliability, and prevalence of parental alienation. It also includes a comprehensive international bibliography regarding parental alienation with more than 600 citations. In order to bring life to the definitions and the technical writing, several short clinical vignettes have been included. These vignettes are based on actual families and real events, but have been modified to protect the privacy of both the parents and children.

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Contact Barbara Jo Fidler, Nicholas Bala, Michael A. Saini, 2012-09-13 Interest in the problem of children who resist contact with or become alienated from a parent after separation or divorce is growing, due in part to parents' increasing frustrations with the apparent ineffectiveness of the legal system in handling these unique cases. There is a need for legal and mental health professionals to improve their understanding of, and response to, this polarizing social dynamic. *Children Who Resist Post-Separation Parental Contact* is a critical, empirically based review of parental alienation that integrates the best research evidence with clinical insight from interviews with leading scholars and practitioners. The authors - Fidler, Bala, and Saini - a psychologist, a lawyer and a social worker, are an multidisciplinary team who draw upon the growing body of mental health and legal literature to summarize the historical development and controversies surrounding the concept of alienation and explain the causes, dynamics, and differentiation of various types of parent-child relationship issues. The authors review research on prevalence, risk factors, indicators, assessment, and measurement to form a conceptual integration of multiple factors relevant to the etiology and maintenance of the problem of strained parent-child relationships. A differential approach to assessment and intervention is provided. Children's rights, the role of their wishes and preferences in legal proceedings, and the short- and long-term impact of parental alienation are also discussed. Considering legal, clinical, prevention, and intervention strategies, and concluding with recommendations for practice, research, and policy, this book is a much-needed resource for mental health professionals, judges, family lawyers, child protection workers, mediators, and others who work with families dealing with divorce, separation, and child custody issues.

child refuses reunification therapy: Parenting Plan Evaluations

Kathryn Kuehnle, Leslie Drozd, 2012 When conducting parenting plan evaluations, mental health professionals need to be aware of a myriad of different factors. More so than in any other form of forensic evaluation, they must have an understanding of the most current findings in developmental research, behavioral psychology, attachment theory, and legal issues to substantiate their opinions. With a number of publications on child custody available, there is an essential need for a text focused on translating the research associated with the most important topics within the family court. This book addresses this gap in the literature by presenting an organized and in-depth analysis of the current research and offering specific recommendations for applying these findings to the evaluation process. Written by experts in the child custody arena, chapters cover issues associated with the most important and complex issues that arise in family court, such as attachment and overnight timesharing with very young children, dynamics between divorced parents and children's potential for resiliency, co-parenting children with chronic medical conditions and developmental disorders, domestic violence during separation and divorce, gay and lesbian co-parents, and relocation, among others. The scientific information provided in these chapters assists forensic mental health professionals to proffer empirically-based opinions, conclusions and recommendations. *Parenting Plan Evaluations* is a must-read for legal practitioners, family law judges and attorneys, and other professionals seeking to understand more about the science behind child custody evaluations.

child refuses reunification therapy: Parental Alienation and Family Reunification

Pearl S. Berman, Ethan M. Weisinger, 2024-02-01 This book on parental alienation and family reunification provides family court professionals with critical background in child development, dynamics present in violent families, and how to evaluate the testimony of experts to ensure it values children's views, best interests of the children, and follows evidence-based practice. As laid out in the Child Welfare Information Gateway report, 2020, Family court judges should make decisions per the best interests of the child standard. High conflict custody cases make this complicated, especially when reunification services are requested. In the middle of contentious proceedings, judges oftentimes receive conflicting information from parents. Judges and family law professionals can be lead astray, relying on unproven constructs and instruments not meeting the criteria of reliability and validity. Mandating victimized children into reunification programs that are neither evidence-based nor trauma informed can cause further harm to the children. This book will be of

interest to those working in the family courts, particularly expert witnesses, clinical psychologists, therapists, children's services workers including social workers, child protection court workers, mental health professionals involved in child custody decisions, and researchers with an interest in parental alienation. The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of Journal of Family Trauma, Child Custody & Child Development.

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that it begs to be read in a single setting, *The Sense of an Ending* has the psychological and emotional depth and sophistication of Henry James at his best, and is a stunning achievement in Julian Barnes's oeuvre. Tony Webster thought he left his past behind as he built a life for himself, and his career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his ex-wife and daughter, who now has a family of her own. But when he is presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world.

child refuses reunification therapy: Adolescent Psychotherapy Homework Planner

Arthur E. Jongsma, Jr., L. Mark Peterson, William P. McInnis, Timothy J. Bruce, 2024-01-04

Evidence-based and effective clinical homework for adolescent clients and their caregivers In the newly updated sixth edition of *The Adolescent Psychotherapy Homework Planner*, a team of distinguished practitioners delivers a time-saving and hands-on practice tool designed to offer clients valuable homework assignments that will further their treatment goals for a wide variety of presenting problems. The Homework Planner addresses common and less-common disorders—including anxiety, depression, substance use, eating, and panic—allowing the client to work between sessions on issues that are the focus of therapy. This book provides evidence-based homework assignments that track the psychotherapeutic interventions suggested by the fifth edition of *The Adolescent Psychotherapy Treatment Planner*. They are easily photocopied, and a digital version is provided online for the therapist who would prefer to access them with a word processor. The Homework Planner also offers: Cross-referenced lists of suggested presenting problems for which each assignment may be appropriate (beyond its primary designation) Several brand-new assignments, as well as adapted assignments that have been shortened or modified to make them more adolescent-client-friendly Homework assignments for the parents of adolescents in treatment, assignments for the adolescents themselves, and assignments for parents and adolescents to complete together An essential and practical tool for therapists and practitioners treating adolescents, *The Adolescent Psychotherapy Homework Planner, Sixth Edition* will benefit social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and other clinicians seeking efficient and effective homework tools for their clients.

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Esq, Matthew Sullivan, John A. Moran, 2020-07 *Overcoming the Alienation Crisis* is a must-have resource for professionals and parents wanting to restore parent-child relationships. Psychologists Moran, McCall, and Sullivan present a balanced view of alienation, coparenting conflict dynamics, and parent-child resist/avoidance problems. Drawing on decades of experience as clinical forensic experts with family court cases, they drill down into the everyday challenges and dilemmas parents face when a child resists or refuses contact with a parent.

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Originally published in 1993, this classic piece of literature on adoption has revolutionised the way people think about adopted children. Nancy Verrier examines the life-long consequences of the 'primal wound' - the wound that is caused when a child is separated from its mother - for adopted people. Her argument is supported by thorough research in pre- and perinatal psychology, attachment, bonding and the effects of loss.

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2011-07-28 This issue provides a unique and valuable perspective on forensic matters in child and adolescent psychiatry, with an approach that adds new thinking to the discussion, rather than rehashing known facts. The issue is divided into several sections: juvenile offenders, family law/custody and visitation, child maltreatment, personal injury law suits, forensic issues in clinical child and adolescent psychiatry, and training in child and adolescent psychiatry. A wide range of topics are explored within each section. All articles are geared toward child psychiatrists in clinical practice, providing practical information in this very important area of study.

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Bernet, 2020 *Parental Alienation - Science and Law* explains the research that creates the

foundation for the assessment, identification, and intervention in cases of parental alienation (PA). For attorneys, judges, and family law professionals, this book explains in detail the scientific basis for testimony and legal decisions that relate to PA. There are two complementary features for most of the chapters. First, the chapter authors address how evidence regarding PA meets the criteria of the Frye, Daubert, and Mohan cases as well as the Federal Rules of Evidence for testimony by experts. The second feature is to refute common misinformation. There is debate and disagreement about some aspects of PA theory. The editors of this book are concerned that some of the discourse regarding PA has spun out of control, into pervasive misinformation. This book provides plenty of evidence for overcoming that hurdle. The editors of this book and the chapter authors have extensive experience with both clinical and legal aspects of divorce, child custody, parenting time evaluations, PA, and related topics. The editors and chapter authors include six psychologists, three physicians, two social workers, four attorneys, and one judge. Collectively, these mental health professionals have testified as expert witnesses hundreds of times regarding family law topics. As an additional feature, the book contains four appendices and three indexes. Appendix A defines the concepts used in this book, so that the chapter authors and readers will use terminology in a consistent manner. Appendix B lists more than one thousand trial and appellate cases in the U.S. involving PA, organized by state. Appendix C presents twenty rather dramatic vignettes involving PA. Finally, Appendix D, Sample Motion and Brief for Extended Voir Dire, provides a motion and supporting brief asking the court to allow extended time to examine the competency of a proposed expert--

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effectively and seeing children relieved of the burden of picking sides, devour this book and get to work

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rose to the top of international rankings in 2009, Americans feared that they were being out-educated by the rising super power. An American journalist of Chinese descent raising a young family in Shanghai, Lenora Chu noticed how well-behaved Chinese children were compared to her boisterous toddler. How did the Chinese create their academic super-achievers? Would their little boy benefit from Chinese school? Chu and her husband decided to enroll three-year-old Rainer in China's state-run public school system. The results were positive—her son quickly settled down, became fluent in Mandarin, and enjoyed his friends—but she also began to notice troubling new behaviors. Wondering what was happening behind closed classroom doors, she embarked on an exploratory journey, interviewing Chinese parents, teachers, and education professors, and following students at all stages of their education. What she discovered is a military-like education system driven by high-stakes testing, with teachers posting rankings in public, using bribes to reward students who comply, and shaming to isolate those who do not. At the same time, she uncovered a years-long desire by government to alleviate its students' crushing academic burden and make education friendlier for all. The more she learns, the more she wonders: Are Chinese children—and her son—paying too high a price for their obedience and the promise of future academic prowess? Is there a way to appropriate the excellence of the system but dispense with the bad? What, if anything, could Westerners learn from China's education journey? Chu's eye-opening investigation challenges our assumptions and asks us to consider the true value and purpose of education.

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child refuses reunification therapy: In the Name of the Child Janet R. Johnston, PhD, Vivienne Roseby, PhD, Kathryn Kuehnle, PhD, 2009-04-06 Johnston, Roseby, and Kuehnle take you behind the child's eyes, into their heads...[they] flesh out the familial context, and bring it all back into the larger social world....When you are done reading, you know who these families are, what the children need, and -- as a clinician -- how you can help them. --Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, MSL Maconda Brown O'Connor Professor Smith College School for Social Work This book addresses problems that arise for children of conflicted and violent divorce. It provides a good base for beginning to treat children in this situation as well as good information for understanding the legal and community services available. --Doody's The fully updated and revised edition of In the Name of the Child examines both the immediate and long-term effects of high-conflict divorce on children. By combining three decades of research with clinical experience, the authors trace the developmental problems affecting very young children through adolescence and adulthood, paying special attention to the impact of family violence and the dynamics of parental alienation. The authors present clinical interventions that have proven to be most effective in their own clinical work with families. With a

new emphasis on the need for prevention and early intervention, this edition examines how defensive strategies and symptoms of distress in children can consolidate into immutable, long-standing psychopathology in their adult lives. This book contains the policies and procedures that can preempt these high-conflict outcomes in divorcing families. Key Features: Contains a new chapter examining the effects of violent divorce on a sample of young adults, tracking their developmental changes from adolescence through adulthood Discusses the developmental threats to both boys and girls of different ages and stages, along with therapeutic interventions and guidelines for parenting plans Proposes principles and criteria for decision-making about custody, visitation, and parenting plans based on individual assessment of the developing child within his or her family Mental health professionals, educators, family lawyers, judges, and court administrators will find this book to be an essential read, with all the knowledge and insight needed to understand the short- and long-term effects of violent divorce on children.

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the pain. - See a way out of the darkness of divorce-into the light. - Discover a hope-filled, fully redeemed future ahead. - Find hope in a devastating time. There is no roadmap through this foreign territory we call divorce, but here are those who have gone before us to light the way. As Jen shares her personal healing story, she points out God's promises and His healing and protection that will help you not only survive this difficult time but eventually thrive.

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