**[](http://spiral.gallery.sytes.org/?p=MjM3NTYxMDA3XDI4NDgxMDg4QE4wMFxUYW5ha2F3aG9cNFw4YjA5ZDc0ZTU0XDk4XDFcU3BpcmFscyBvbiBwaW5r-iBl_g)**

WEAVE Inc

(Women Everywhere Advocating Violence Elimination) National Abuse Free Contact Campaign

**ALIENATION AS A DYNAMIC OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

* Use of denigration of mother is part of the pattern of both child sexual abuse and domestic violence
* Perpetrators of domestic violence use custody litigation as a form of ongoing harassment and abuse of mother
* Alienation theory and its continued use reflects historical and societal denial of the extent of male violence within the family

**PARENTAL ALIENATION – OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES**

* Too closely aligned to PAS
* Claims of abuse are automatically treated as highly suspect
* Privileges alienation over abuse as a subject of analysis and as an explanation of children’s problems
* No empirical evidence that alienation causes any long term negative impact to children
* Leads to discounting and marginalising of child abuse and domestic violence and its impact on children
* Proponents of alienation theory acknowledge that it is rare and a “very minor problem for the Courts”
* Based on pejorative assumptions about mothers and children
* Sexist – it is mothers who are routinely accused of alienation behaviours

**PARENTAL ALIENATION SYNDROME**

Original theory developed by Richard Gardner (1931-2003)

* Lacks any empirical basis
* Based solely on Gardner’s own clinical experience
* Little objective basis
* Gardner had bizarre beliefs about sexuality. He is quoted as stating that: “adult-child sex need not be intrinsically harmful to children.”
* PAS is grounded in misogynistic views and reflects a mother-blaming ideology

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