

Online Seminars in “Parental Alienation”

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I have developed a set of 3 online seminars regarding understanding “parental alienation” processes within the family:

1. The Origins
2. The Diagnosis
3. Treatment (pending completion)

These seminars are available through Digital Chalk,

Enrolling in a Seminar:

1. Go to the login page for Dr. Childress at Digital Chalk
<https://craigchildress.digitalchalk.com/dc/guest/login>
2. Click the <New Account> button
3. Complete the registration information (i.e., name; email; password creation)
4. Click the <Catalog> tab for a list of available seminars from Dr. Childress

Seminar Information:

These seminars were developed to meet multiple goals:

- To provide a “professional-level” resource for targeted parents to which they can direct mental health professionals involved with their family’s diagnosis and treatment for training in understanding, diagnosing, and treating the child and family processes associated with “parental alienation”
- The seminars are directed toward mental health professionals, so the discussion is at a professional level. The goal is to establish a standard of professional competence for working with this “special population” of children and family processes to which diagnosing and treating mental health professionals can be held accountable. A professional failure to meet this standard may represent “practice beyond the boundaries of professional competence” in possible violation of professional practice standards
- Targeted parents may benefit from the seminar information by gaining an improved understanding for the nature of the family processes involved, and from an improved ability to work with diagnosing and treating mental health providers
- Attorneys may benefit from the seminar information through an improved ability to organize their direct and cross-examinations of mental health testimony
- A final goal of these seminars is to bring professional cohesion to the understanding of the psychological and interpersonal dynamics associated with “parental alienation” processes in the family, so that the mental health profession can begin to speak with one voice that will allow the legal system to act with the necessary clarity of focus

Seminar Content

Seminar 1: The Origins

This seminar describes the formation of the psychopathology being evidenced in the family processes associated with “parental alienation.” The content of this seminar provides the theoretical foundations for the following seminars on Diagnosis and Treatment.

Module 1: Attachment Foundations of the “Alienation” Process

This seminar module discusses the classical features of “parental alienation” from an attachment system perspective, including the trans-generational transmission of disordered attachment patterns (“internal working models”) from the childhood of the “alienating”/allied parent to the current family relationships, and the manifestation of these processes in the child’s symptomatic display of attachment system disruption. (13:40)

Module 2: Childhood Origins

This seminar module discusses the childhood formation processes for the disordered attachment patterns of the “alienating”/allied parent that are then being transferred into the current family relationship patterns and that are being expressed as the current “parental alienation” processes within the family. (13:42)

Module 3: Invalidating Environment

This seminar module discusses the development of the role-reversal relationship that results in nullifying the child’s authentic experience in favor of meeting the emotional and psychological needs of the allied/pathological parent. (11:29)

Module 4: Role-Reversal Relationship

This seminar module elaborates on the role-reversal relationship in which the child’s symptoms are used to regulate the psychological and emotional needs of the allied/narcissistic-borderline parent (11:50)

Module 5: Reenactment Narrative

This seminar module details the reenactment narrative in which the childhood relationship trauma patterns that resulted in the formation of the allied/”alienating” parent’s narcissistic and borderline personality disorder processes are being reenacted in current relationship dynamics. (13:20)

Module 6: Inducing the Child’s Symptoms Part 1 - Emotional Signaling & Social Referencing

This seminar module discusses several of the communication and relationship processes by which the distorted meaning constructions and psychopathology of the “alienating”/allied parent is being transferred to the child. (12:00)

Module 7: Inducing the Child's Symptoms Part 2 - Selective Parental Attunement and Misattunement

This seminar module discusses one of the primary communication interaction sequences, that of selective and differential parental attunement and misattunement to parentally desired and non-desired states and communication of the child, whereby the "alienating"/allied parent can induce the child's symptomatology and distorted belief systems. (18:27)

Module 8: The Child's Symptom Display - Origins of Attachment and Delusional Features

This seminar module discusses the family and relationship processes by which the child's attachment related symptoms and fixed and false beliefs form. (12:11)

Module 9: The Child's Symptom Display - Personality Disorder Features

This seminar module continues the discussion of the child's symptom display by examining the personality disorder traits evidenced in the child's symptom presentation. (7:43)

Module 10: Anxiety Management Strategies of the Allied/Pathological Parent

This seminar module describes the central role and the various features of the anxiety regulation efforts of the allied/"alienating parent" in creating the family processes associated with "parental alienation." (13:03)

Module 11: Child Anxiety Variant

This seminar module discusses a symptom variant to the typical child presentation of hostile rejection of the targeted parent, in which the child instead presents an overly anxious and fearful display toward the targeted parent. (3:43)

Module 12: Clinical Speculation on Trans-Generational Trauma Origins

This concluding seminar module offers hypotheses on the initial relationship trauma that entered the family system and is being trans-generationally transmitted into the current family relationship dynamics of "parental alienation" based on the symptom features in the current manifestation of the psychopathology. (13:51)

Total Seminar Time: 2:24:50

Seminar 2: Diagnosis

Module 1: Introduction

This seminar module provides an overview of seminar goals and content (4:44)

Module 2: Attachment Foundations

This seminar module summarizes the attachment related foundations for the “alienation” processes within the family. (14:35)

Module 3: Professional Competence

This seminar module proposes that children and families expressing “parental alienation” family processes warrant the professional designation as a “special population” who require specialized professional knowledge, expertise, and training to appropriately diagnose and treat, and this module explores issues of professional competence and boundaries of professional competence in the diagnosis and treatment of this “special population” of children and family dynamics. (7:19)

Module 4: Assessing “Parental Alienation” Processes

This seminar module describes the overall approach to recognizing and diagnosing the “pathogenic parenting” and family processes associated with “parental alienation.” (13:35)

Module 5: Overview of the Child’s Symptom Presentation

This seminar module presents an organizing overview of the child’s symptom display. (11:58)

Module 6: Evaluating the Targeted Parent

This seminar module discusses the approach to evaluating the parenting of the targeted parent. (18:53)

Module 7: Diagnostic Assessment of the Child’s Attachment Related Symptoms

This seminar module examines the development and diagnostic features of the child’s attachment related symptoms. (16:56)

Module 8: Diagnostic Assessment of the Child’s Core Personality Disorder Symptoms

This seminar module describes the diagnostic features of the child’s personality disorder symptom display. (13:54)

Module 9: Diagnostic Assessment of the Child’s Persecutory Belief System

This seminar module examines the development and diagnostic features of the child's fixed and false persecutory belief system regarding the targeted parent. (14:35)

Module 10: Diagnosing Authentic vs. Inauthentic Parent-Child Conflict – Part 1

This seminar module identifies six separate diagnostic features by which authentic parent-child conflict can be diagnostically differentiated from induced-inauthentic parent-child conflict. (14:38)

Module 11: Diagnosing Authentic vs. Inauthentic Parent-Child Conflict – Part 2

This seminar module continues the discussion of the six diagnostic features by which authentic parent-child conflict can be diagnostically differentiated from induced and inauthentic parent-child conflict. (10:26)

Module 12: Diagnosing Authentic vs. Inauthentic Parent-Child Conflict – Part 2

This seminar module concludes the discussion of the six diagnostic features by which authentic parent-child conflict can be diagnostically differentiated from induced and inauthentic parent-child conflict. (8:52)

Module 13: Diagnosing the Anxiety Variant

This seminar module discusses the diagnostic features of the anxiety variant in which the child displays excessive anxiety and fearfulness toward the targeted parent rather than overtly hostile rejection. (11:37)

Module 14: Other Associated Signs

This seminar module discusses other co-occurring signs and features displayed within the context of "parental alienation" family processes. (19:08)

Module 15: Recommendations

This concluding seminar module discusses the general treatment related recommendations that should be made when a diagnosis of "parental alienation" processes is made within a family. (14:27)

Total Seminar Time: 3:21:58

Seminar 3: Treatment (in final development)

Module 1: Special Population Designation

(pending final development)

This seminar module examines the clinical justification for identifying children and families expressing “parental alienation” processes as a “special population” who require specialized professional knowledge, training, and expertise to appropriately diagnose and treat. (xx:xx)

Module 2: Protective Separation

(pending final development)

This seminar module discusses the clinical treatment reasons that warrant a protective separation of the child from the psychopathology of the narcissistic-borderline parent during the active phase of the child’s treatment. (xx:xx)

Module 3: Treatment Framework

(pending final development)

This seminar module discusses the clinical framework for conceptualizing the child’s symptom presentation. (xx:xx)

Module 4: Diagnosis

(pending final development)

This seminar module discusses the clinical diagnostic features of the “parental alienation” family dynamics that represent the target of therapy. (xx:xx)

Module 5: Rescue

(pending final development)

This seminar module discusses the clinical importance of rescuing the child from the role-reversal relationship and psychopathology of the allied narcissistic-borderline parent. (xx:xx)

Module 6: The Development of Self-Authenticity

(pending final development)

This seminar module discusses the scientific bases and child developmental foundations regarding the development of self-authenticity during childhood. (xx:xx)

Module 7: Understanding the Processes of Inducing Distortions

(pending final development)

This seminar module examines the interpersonal communication and relationship processes by which the child’s false and distorted belief systems are induced by the psychopathology of the narcissistic-borderline parent. (xx:xx)

Module 8: Resolving the Anger

(pending final development)

This seminar module identifies the clinical interventions necessary for understanding and resolving the child's excessive and chronic displays of anger toward the targeted parent. (xx:xx)

Module 9: Restoring Empathy

(pending final development)

This seminar module identifies the therapeutic interventions necessary for restoring the child's self-experience of normal-range empathy. (xx:xx)

Module 10: Restoring Child Authenticity in the Parent-Child Relationship

(pending final development)

This seminar module identifies the therapeutic interventions necessary for resolving the cognitive and interpersonal distortions induced by the psychopathology of the "alienating"/allied parent, and restoring the child's authentic self-experience. (xx:xx)

Module 11: Understanding the Breach-and-Repair Sequence

(pending final development)

This seminar module discusses the psychological dynamics of the "breach-and-repair" sequence relative to the formation of complex self-structure. (xx:xx)

Module 12: Resolving the Breach

(pending final development)

This seminar module discusses the therapeutic interventions necessary for the repair of the chronic interpersonal breach that is associated with "parental alienation" processes. (xx:xx)

Module 13: Reunification with the Psychopathology

(pending final development)

This seminar module discusses the clinical processes of restoring the child's relationship with the psychopathology of the "alienating"/allied parent. (xx:xx)

Total Seminar Time: x:xx:xx