

The DSM-IV TR Diagnosis for the Parental Alienation Dynamic

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The term “Parental Alienation **Dynamic**” is a clinical term used to describe **a specific set** of interpersonally organized DSM-IV TR diagnoses. The **dynamic** entails a set of inter-related diagnoses involving two people, as necessitated by the child’s primary Axis I diagnosis of a **Shared** Psychotic Disorder. This child diagnosis requires that another person to whom the child is psychologically close have a diagnosis involving a delusional disorder.

In the case of the alienation **dynamic**, the person diagnosed with an encapsulated Delusional Disorder is the Beta parent. However, the Delusional Disorder is not the primary diagnosis of the Beta parent within the interpersonally expressed alienation **dynamic**. The Beta parent’s encapsulated delusion emerges from the trans-generational transmission, and **current re-enactment**, of early childhood psychological-relationship trauma through the mediation of the Beta parent’s Personality Disorder. The primary diagnosis for the Beta parent is therefore an Axis II Personality Disorder (or, in some cases, prominent Borderline and Narcissistic personality disorder features).

The DSM-IV TR Diagnosis

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual – Fourth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-IV TR) provides professionally recognized diagnostic categories and criteria definitions.

The Parental Alienation Dynamic involves the following set of DSM-IV TR diagnoses:

Beta Parent

Axis I	297.1	Delusional Disorder; persecutory type
Axis II	301.9	Personality Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified (primary diagnosis) Borderline personality features Narcissistic personality features Current Defenses or Coping Styles: Splitting Devaluation Projective identification Denial Predominant Current Defense Level: Major image-distorting level

Delta Child

Axis I	297.3	Shared Psychotic Disorder (Folie à Deux) (primary diagnosis)
	313.81	Oppositional Defiant Disorder