



PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS
ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND
Information sheet

Parental Alienation – Contact Supervised

Revised: January 2013 -

One Page Only

Other Information Sheets

This sheet is part of the Contact series. All the information sheets on “Contact” should be read together.

A noteworthy mention

Without breaking the “in camera rule”, I am quoting the ruling of a very wise Judge of the District Court. Said Judge did see through the false allegations against the father and decided, after hearing the social worker's evidence and suggestions, that “all contact should be strictly supervised”.

“Mr (the father) will have access on Wednesdays: 3 – 5 pm, and alternative Saturdays and Sundays from at least 10am to 5 pm. Mr (the father) will decide on the venues for access.”

The social worker's smile immediately disappeared when the judge ordered: “and all access shall be supervised by Mrs (the mother) only. If she is ill, with a certificate from the doctor, or the hospital, Mr (the father) can decide who will supervise, but I assume that the children will be with him if she is very ill or in hospital.”

Six months later, at a revision hearing, the judge just smiled when he took notice that the family was reunited. This time he made an order, on his own accord, that the one boy should “recommence his rugby training”.

I agree with said judge that “supervised access” was 100% justified in this case.

Supervised Contact

Supervised access should be only on an order of the Court, hearing evidence that the child -

- is at risk of serious harm or
- is at risk of abduction or
- Is afraid of the target parent, who is also the alienating parent (though past actions)

or

- The child is a PAS child in rehabilitation
- Supervised access orders should be revisited at regular intervals – suggested every 6 months.

Intrusive v supporting supervision

Supervised access should always be supporting, not intrusive.

Examples of intrusive:

- Room (or McDonald's) – with supervisor in same room or same table.
- Outside, video or audio – supervisor always in visual or hearing distance
- Letters opened, read, redacted

Examples of supportive:

- Room (or McDonald's) – supervisor behind one way glass or a few tables away in restaurant.
- Outside, video or audio – supervisor at a distance but in easily accessible for the child experiencing distress.
- Letters given to child to open and read with supervisor seeing at a distance reaction of the child. The supervisor might obtain the permission of the child to read the letter afterwards.

Intrusive is alienating

When access supervision is intrusive, it will promote the alienation of the child. The older the child, the greater the danger of alienation.

Stupid examples

- Mother knows where child is at school. No barring order against mother. The child travel to school by bus – “Risk of abduction.”
- Father disabled and in wheel chair. Son healthy – 14 years old - “Risk of physical abuse”

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