The handout of the 5/31/17 Powerpoint presentation of Dr. Childress is from a briefing to the Massachusetts state legislature on Grandparent & Family Alienation.

It has been divided into three parts to allow for a manageable file size for downloading.

This is Part 3.

The attachment-related pathology traditionally called "parental alienation" in the popular culture represents:

The trans-generational transmission of attachment trauma from the childhood of the narcissistic/(borderline) parent to the current family relationships, mediated by the personality disorder pathology of the allied narcissistic/(borderline) parent, that is itself a product of this parent's childhood attachment trauma.

The family pathology traditionally called "parental alienation" in the popular culture represents:

The child's triangulation into the spousal conflict through the formation of a cross-generational coalition with an allied narcissistic/(borderline) parent in which the child is forced to choose sides in the spousal conflict, resulting in a cutoff of the child's relationship with the formerly beloved targeted parent.

Three diagnostic indicators of attachment-based "parental alienation" (AB-PA):

1.) Attachment system suppression
2.) Narcissistic personality traits in the child's symptom display
3.) An encapsulated persecutory delusion in the child's symptom display.
Grandparent & Family Alienation
Briefing to the Massachusetts State Legislature

AB-PA: Diagnostic Indicator 1

1.) Attachment System Suppression
- The attachment system NEVER spontaneously dysfunctions.
- The attachment system ONLY becomes dysfunctional in response to pathogenic parenting.
Patho = pathology; genic = genesis, creation. Pathogenic parenting is the creation of significant pathology in the child through aberrant and distorted parenting practices.

AB-PA: Diagnostic Indicator 2

2.) Narcissistic Personality Traits
- Five specific narcissistic personality traits are evidenced in the child's symptom display.
- These are the "psychological fingerprint" evidence of the psychological control of the child by a narcissistic or borderline personality parent.
- We cannot psychologically control a child without leaving "psychological fingerprints" of the control in the child's symptom display.

AB-PA: Diagnostic Indicator 3

(2b.) Anxiety Variant
- The child displays excessive anxiety that meets DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for a Specific Phobia, but of a bizarre and unrealistic "father type" or "mother type"
  1. Persistent Unwarranted Fear (of the parent)
  2. Severe Anxiety Response (to the parent)
  3. Avoidance of the Stimulus (the parent)

The presence of these three diagnostic indicators in the child's symptom display represents the presence of attachment-based "parental alienation" (AB–PA).

No other pathology in all of mental health will produce this specific set of three child symptoms – all three in the child's symptom display – except AB-PA as described in Foundations.

Pathogenic parenting that is creating significant
- Developmental pathology in the child (diagnostic indicator 1),
- Personality disorder pathology in the child (diagnostic indicator 2),
- Delusional-psychiatric pathology in the child (diagnostic indicator 3)

is a DSM-5 diagnosis of:
- V995.51 Child Psychological Abuse, Confirmed.
Pathogenic parenting is NOT a child custody issue, it is a child protection issue.

Child Abuse Reporting Laws
Child Psychological Child Abuse

DSM-5: Mandated Reporting Laws

The inclusion of the diagnostic code:

V995.51 Child Psychological Abuse

into the DSM-5 diagnostic system of the American Psychiatric Association warrants the review of existing mandated child abuse reporting laws to ensure that they adequately cover the reporting of child psychological abuse as diagnosed by a mental health professional.

Emotional vs Psychological Abuse

Emotional abuse is different than psychological child abuse.

Emotional abuse, as referenced in the statutes, refers to the creation of severe "anxiety, depression, and aggression" in the child. These are emotions, not psychopathology.

Psychological child abuse is parenting that is creating significant developmental and psychological psychopathology in the child as diagnosed by a mental health professional (such as personality disorder pathology or delusional-psychiatric pathology).

Massachusetts child abuse reporting laws do not address child psychological abuse (i.e., the creation of significant psychopathology in children through aberrant and distorted parenting practices), despite there being a DSM-5 diagnosis of V995.51 Child Psychological Abuse.
Pathogenic parenting that is creating significant
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(diagnostic indicator 1),
Personality disorder pathology in the child
(diagnostic indicator 2),
Delusional-psychiatric pathology in the child
(diagnostic indicator 3)
is a DSM-5 diagnosis of:
V995.51 Child Psychological Abuse, Confirmed.

Clarifying Professional Obligations
A formal DSM-5 diagnosis of Child Psychological Abuse
(V995.51) made by a mental health professional will
activate the mental health professional’s “duty to
protect.”
Clarification to mandated reporting laws will provide
clear guidance to ALL mental health professionals
regarding their responsibility to assess, diagnose, and
report child psychological abuse.

Providing Guidance
Clarification of the mandated child abuse reporting laws
to reference and define psychological child abuse would
be consistent with the DSM-5 including a diagnostic
category of child Psychological Abuse (V995.51) into the
formal diagnostic system of the American Psychiatric
Association.

Recommended Change to Reporting Laws:
Psychological child abuse is defined as creating
significant psychopathology in the child through
aberrant and distorted parenting practices, including,
but not limited to, the creation of severe
developmental pathology, personality disorder
pathology, or delusional psychiatric pathology as
diagnosed by a mental health professional.

AB-PA is not just the loss of a relationship with a
loving and beloved parent, AB-PA involves the loss of
an entire family for the child – a loss of half of the
child’s identity.

Florida: HB-12-79
Representative Bruce Antone
Inflicts mental injury, as defined in subsection (42)
on a child through the use of manipulation or
psychological abuse, including, but not limited to,
parental alienation, which creates a significant
developmental pathology, personality disorder
pathology, or delusional psychiatric pathology as
diagnosed by a mental health professional licensed
under chapter 490 or chapter 491.
These are loving and beloved grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, and uncles. An entire family is erased from the child’s life.

http://erasingfamily.org/

The narcissistic/(borderline) parent creates significant psychopathology in the child in order to meet the emotional and psychological needs of the narcissistic spouse in seeking revenge on the other spouse for the divorce...

The child has been “weaponized” by the narcissistic parent as an instrument of revenge against the other spouse for having had the temerity to divorce the narcissistic parent.

Children are NEVER weapons. Children are kids. And children have the right to love both parents, and both families, and children have the right to receive the love of both parents and both families in return.

The child’s erased family simply wants to love the child – love is always a good thing.

Children flourish in the abundant love of family

And the love received from a grandparent can be some of the best loving of all – because it’s rich with life’s wisdom and free of parental stresses. Children flourish in abundant love... to know that they are valued and valuable – cherished and adored.
Obstructed bonding by a narcissistic parent seeking revenge on the other spouse for the divorce represents a form of child psychological abuse.

Pathogenic parenting that is creating significant

Developmental pathology in the child
(diagnostic indicator 1),

Personality disorder pathology in the child
(diagnostic indicator 2),

Delusional psychiatric pathology in the child
(diagnostic indicator 3)

is not a child custody issue, it is a child protection issue.

References:

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