

## Pathogenic Parenting as Expressed Through Parental Alienation Processes

## Child Personality Disorder Symptom Checklist

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Symptom Presentation	(always present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Splitting		Borderline Criterion 2
DSM-IV TR: A pattern of unstable and intense interpersonal relationships characterized by alternating between <b>extremes of idealization and devaluation</b>		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom across parental relationships in which the alienating-Beta parent is the “all-good” idealized parent and the targeted-Delta parent is the “all-bad” devalued parent. The child manifests a lack of ambivalence in his or her evaluation of each parent that would otherwise be expected from having complex and integrated positive and negative representations of each parent</p>		
Symptom Presentation	(always present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Empathy		Narcissistic Criterion 7
DSM-IV TR: Lacks empathy: is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as a lack of displayed empathic resonance for the hurt feelings caused to the targeted-Delta parent by the child’s active and overt rejection and hostility. The child can say and do mean and hateful things to the targeted parent without apparent emotional distress or remorse.</p>		
Symptom Presentation	(usually present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Haughty Arrogance		Narcissistic Criterion 9
DSM-IV TR: Shows arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as an attitude of overtly expressed contempt and superiority regarding the targeted-Delta parent.</p>		

Symptom Presentation	(always present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Fear of Abandonment		Borderline Criterion 1
DSM-IV TR: Frantic efforts to avoid real or imagined abandonment		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom through the complete rejection of the targeted-Delta parent, thereby defining the targeted-Delta parent as the “entirely abandoned” parent and the over-idealization of the alienating-Beta parent, thereby defining the alienating-Beta parent as the “never-to-be abandoned” parent. This represents an enactment of the alienating-Beta parent’s projection of his or her own abandonment fears onto the targeted-Delta parent, in which the child’s rejection of the targeted-Delta parent seals the projected abandonment fears, allowing the alienating-Beta parent to expel these fears that were activated by the divorce.</p> <p>The “frantic” nature of this symptom is displayed primarily by the alienating Beta-parent’s obsessive efforts to undermine the parent-child relationship of the targeted-Delta parent and the child, and by the child’s excessive efforts to avoid and undermine visitations with the targeted-Delta parent.</p>		

Symptom Presentation	(usually present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Entitlement		Narcissistic Criterion 5
DSM-IV TR: Has a sense of entitlement, i.e., unreasonable expectations of especially favorable treatment or automatic compliance with his or her expectations		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as an expectation that the targeted-Delta parent will immediately and fully meet the child’s demands and wishes.</p> <p>When the targeted-Delta parent does not immediately and fully meet the child’s demands, the child retaliates with a sense of justified moral righteousness.</p>		

Symptom Presentation	(usually present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandiosity		Narcissistic Criterion 1
DSM-IV TR: Has a grandiose sense of self-importance		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as sitting in judgment of the targeted-Delta parent and as finding the targeted-Delta parent to be fundamentally inadequate as a parent. The child displays an implicit belief regarding the child's elevated status in the authority hierarchy above that of the targeted-Delta parent.</p>		

Symptom Presentation	(sometimes present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Exploitative		Narcissistic Criterion 6
DSM-IV TR: is interpersonally exploitative, i.e., takes advantage of others to achieve his or her own ends		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as being nice to the targeted-Delta parent in order to acquire objects of desire, but then reverting to hostile or withdrawn rejection as soon as the targeted-Delta parent supplies the object of desire.</p> <p>The targeted-Delta parent will frequently meet the child's demands for the object-of-desire from the hopes that by doing so the child will sustain the pleasant attitude and disposition. However, this approach is not successful, and the child reverts to the overtly hostile or withdrawn rejection of the targeted-Delta parent as soon as the object-of-desire is provided.</p>		

Symptom Presentation	(often present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Anger Dyscontrol		Borderline Criterion 8
DSM-IV TR: Inappropriate, intense anger or difficulty controlling anger (e.g., frequent displays of temper, constant anger, recurrent physical fights)		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as outburst of anger and vitriol expressed toward the targeted-Delta parent, often involving cursing and abusive name calling.</p>		

Symptom Presentation	(sometimes present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Emotionally Over-Reactive		Borderline Criterion 6
DSM-IV TR: Affective instability due to a marked reactivity of mood (e.g., intense episodic dysphoria, irritability, or anxiety usually lasting a few hours and only rarely more than a few days)		
Child symptom manifestation:		
Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as a tendency toward excessive emotional displays of hostility, sadness, and anxiety when with the targeted-Delta parent. This symptom can occur in association with the hyper-sensitivity symptom (Paranoid criterion 4) and the anger dyscontrol symptom (Borderline criterion 8)		

Symptom Presentation	(often present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Persecutory		Paranoid Criterion 1
DSM-IV TR: Suspects, without sufficient basis, that others are exploiting, harming, or deceiving him or her		
Child symptom manifestation:		
Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as accusations that the targeted-Delta parent is lying, particularly about some aspect of the divorce or treatment of the alienating-Beta parent, and as a belief, <b>without sufficient basis</b> , that the targeted-Delta parent is abusive or malevolently disposed toward the child. This symptoms is often accompanied by retaliatory anger from the child or with excessive displays of anxiety prior to visitation periods with the targeted-Delta parent. This symptom is associated with the child's persecutory delusional belief system regarding the targeted-Delta parent.		

Symptom Presentation	(usually present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Grudges/Unforgiving		Paranoid Criterion 5
DSM-IV TR: Persistently bears grudges, i.e., is unforgiving of insults, injuries, or slights		
Child symptom manifestation:		
Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as the child's complete refusal to let go of perceived past slights and wrongs (usually minor) that the child asserts were done to the child by the targeted-Delta parent.		

Symptom Presentation	(sometimes present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn/Withholding		Paranoid Criterion 3
DSM-IV TR: Is reluctant to confide in others because of unwarranted fear that the information will be used maliciously against him or her		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as a psychological withdrawal from the targeted-Delta parent and as withholding from the targeted-Delta parent information about the child's daily activities and interests. This symptom can be associated with anxious displays by the child and reluctant cooperation with visitations because of enforced court orders.</p>		

Symptom Presentation	(sometimes present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Hyper-Sensitive		Paranoid Criterion 4
DSM-IV TR: Reads hidden demeaning or threatening meanings into benign remarks or events		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as a heightened sensitivity to perceived slights from the targeted-Delta parent. The child may respond with anger-retaliation and anger dyscontrol, and these incidents may be added to grudges which are not forgiven.</p>		

Symptom Presentation	(sometimes present)	Personality Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Infidelity Suspicions		Paranoid Criterion 7
DSM-IV TR: Has recurrent suspicions, without justification, regarding fidelity of spouse or sexual partner		
Child symptom manifestation:		
<p>Within the dynamic of pathogenic parenting that is being expressed through parental alienation processes, the child expresses this symptom as anger-rejection of dating partners or step-parent partners of the targeted-Delta parent. This symptom represents an inappropriate intrusion of the child into the adult dating and spousal relationship of the targeted-Delta parent. The child may show overt rejection and hostility toward the dating or spousal partner of the targeted-Delta parent.</p>		