

Diagnostic Checklist for Pathogenic Parenting

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1. Attachment System Suppression

Present	Sub-Threshold	Absent	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The child's symptoms evidence a selective and targeted suppression of the normal-range functioning of the child's attachment bonding motivations toward one parent, the targeted-rejected parent, in which the child seeks to entirely terminate a relationship with this parent (i.e., a child-initiated cutoff in the child's relationship with a normal-range and affectionally available parent).

Secondary Criterion: **Normal-Range Parenting:**

yes	no	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The parenting practices of the targeted-rejected parent are assessed to be broadly normal-range, with due consideration given to the wide spectrum of acceptable parenting that is typically displayed in normal-range families.

Normal-range parenting includes the legitimate exercise of parental prerogatives in establishing desired family values through parental expectations for desired child behavior and normal-range discipline practices.

2(a). Personality Disorder Traits

Present	Sub-Threshold	Absent	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The child's symptoms evidence all five of the following narcissistic/(borderline) personality disorder features displayed toward the targeted-rejected parent.

Sub-Criterion Met
yes no

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grandiosity: The child displays a grandiose perception of occupying an inappropriately elevated status in the family hierarchy that is above the targeted-rejected parent from which the child feels empowered to sit in judgment of the targeted-rejected parent as both a parent and as a person. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Absence of Empathy: The child displays a complete absence of empathy for the emotional pain being inflicted on the targeted-rejected parent by the child's hostility and rejection of this parent. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Entitlement: The child displays an over-empowered sense of entitlement in which the child expects that his or her desires will be met by the targeted-rejected parent to the child's satisfaction, and if the rejected parent fails to meet the child's entitled expectations to the child's satisfaction then the child feels entitled to enact a retaliatory punishment on the rejected parent for the child's judgment of parental failures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Haughty and Arrogant Attitude: The child displays an attitude of haughty arrogance and contemptuous disdain for the targeted-rejected parent. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Splitting: The child evidences polarized extremes of attitude toward the parents, in which the supposedly "favored" parent is idealized as the all-good and nurturing parent while the rejected parent is entirely devalued as the all-bad and entirely inadequate parent. |

2(b). Phobic Anxiety Toward a Parent

Present	Sub-Threshold	Absent
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The child's symptoms evidence an extreme and excessive anxiety toward the targeted-rejected parent that meets the following DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for a specific phobia:

Criterion Met
yes no

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Persistent Unwarranted Fear: The child displays a persistent and unwarranted fear of the targeted-rejected parent that is cued either by the presence of the targeted parent or in anticipation of being in the presence of the targeted parent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Severe Anxiety Response: The presence of the targeted-rejected parent almost invariably provokes an anxiety response which can reach the level of a situationally provoked panic attack. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoidance of Parent: The child seeks to avoid exposure to the targeted parent due to the situationally provoked anxiety or else endures the presence of the targeted parent with great distress. |

3. Fixed False Belief

Present	Sub-Threshold	Absent
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The child's symptoms display an intransigently held, fixed and false belief regarding the fundamental parental inadequacy of the targeted-rejected parent in which the child characterizes a relationship with the targeted-rejected parent as being somehow emotionally or psychologically "abusive" of the child.

While the child may not explicitly use the term "abusive," the implication of emotional or psychological abuse is contained within the child's belief system and is not warranted based on the assessed parenting practices of the targeted-rejected parent (which are assessed to be broadly normal-range).

Associated Clinical Signs with the Allied and Supposedly Favored Parent

Present	Not Present	Not Known
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Adopting the "Protective Parent" Role:

The allied parent expresses unwarranted concern for the child's "safety" when the child is in the care of the targeted-rejected parent.

Empowering the Child's Active Agency in Rejecting the Other Parent:

The allied parent seeks to empower the child's ability to reject the other parent (e.g., "You should listen to what the child wants" – "The child should be allowed to decide on visitation with the other parent" – seeks to have the child testify in court to reject the other parent).