

This is my submission to those looking at amending Family Law in Australia. I make the request that my name be withheld if this email is made public.

[Personal information redacted] We had as strong a loving bond as can be but I learned the hard way that one parent can be subtle and relentless in easily using Family Law in Australia to alienate a child from the other parent. I am a victim of intense ongoing emotional family violence but my suffering is ignored and dismissed simply because my gender is male. I learned that my daughter is carrying the incomparable emotional weight of severing her entire paternal family and will probably now carry her buried grief through her whole life because Family Law in this country enables parental alienation, the Court "experts" are not up to date with the latest research and they are not accountable in any way to anyone.

I firmly believe the heavy emotional toll my daughter has been forced to burden (possibly for life) is child abuse, domestic abuse and family violence and was enabled by our family court system as it stands.

I became outraged at how our society ignorantly disregarded all my daughter's blatant warning bells. Children are neurologically hard wired to stay attached to loving parents. If they appear to choose to lose a parent something is very wrong. PA is not benign and it is far from natural.

Family Law in this country supposedly rests on the best interests of the child. If our Court was really serious about this it would have an accountability mechanism in place to review how its process and decisions effect those children going forward. But it has zero care in the future of those children once they leave the Courtroom so it could never know how broken it is.

Take one look at [personal information redacted] you will see the decisions enabled by our Family Law were without doubt in the worst interests of my child.

[Information redacted]

If you were to meet the grieving parents who reach out to our support networks and hear their stories about PA you would likely be moved to tears. PA Australia private Facebook group is only recent but has over 800 despairing mums and dads whose lives are in limbo. How many children are out there being denied loving parents and grandparents whilst society averts its eyes?

If you were to then read any of the research that unequivocally points out how emotionally damaging this is to our children (often for life), you would probably be outraged enough to demand massive change to our legislation.

Parental alienation is not a custody issue. It is a child protection issue and children have the right to be protected from it.

I demand that Family Law in this country be dismantled and rewritten based on the cutting edge latest research of world experts in this field such as Childress, Woodall and Warchek et al.

Please don't let my daughter's suffering continue to happen to other children in this country. Please move to prevent AVOs being used as strategic tactics in custody disputes. Please enforce perjury in family law. There is no greater betrayal to a parent and child than lying to separate them. Please recognise emotional abuse of fathers through manipulation of family law as family violence. Please recognise parental alienation for what it is – child abuse that may not show bruises but can be devastatingly more damaging to our whole society.

[Personal details redacted]

20 January 2017