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Dear Dr Pickova,

from Dr. Eduard Bakalar; Praha, I was informed, that Grada Publishing – eventually – will publish the “*International Handbook of Parental Alienation Syndrome. Conceptual, Clinical and Legal Considerations*” (Eds): R. A. Gardner/R. Sauber/D. Lorandos (CC-Thomas-Publisher, Springfield, Illinois in Czech. Language. As a contributor to this important book about PAS and as organizers of the International Conference on the Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), Frankfurt/Main October 2002 (see <http://www.pas-konferenz.de>, especially conference proceedings, Verlag Wissenschaft und Bildung, Berlin, 2003) I would like to encourage very much this important project of yours. I allow myself to pass on to you today, in connection with further developments on the topics of parent-child-alienation and Parental Alienation Syndrome, the following informations, which might be of some interest for your project:

- 1 . In July 2006 publication of: Gardner/Sauber/Lorandos, “International Handbook of Parental Alienation Syndrome: Conceptual, Clinical and Legal Considerations”, Charles C. Thomas Publisher Ltd., Springfield, Illinois. This is a comprehensive textbook of remarkable quality for interested professionals of the various divorce related disciplines. In this handbook 32 experts from 8 countries present the current scientific knowledge about the Parental Alienation Syndrome, as well as on the theoretical and practical questions connected with it. Contents and details about the handbook can be found at <http://www.ccthom.com> (book orders directly from the publisher, Amazon.com (USA), or other book sellers).
- 2 . A scientifically excellent review of the concepts and the controversies relating to PAS can be found in Warshak, R. A.: “Eltern-Kind-Entfremdung und Sozialwissenschaften – Sachlichkeit statt Polemik”, Zentralblatt für Jugendrecht (ZfJ), 92(5) 2005, 186 -200. This publication is an update and German translation of his article: “Bringing Sense to Parental Alienation: A Look at the Disputes and the Evidence” in Family Law Quarterly 2003, 37 (2): 273-301. In this article professor Warshak presents the current status of research on PAS. He discusses in detail the familiar points of criticism and also, in his presentation of the PAS concept, makes numerous suggestions for further scientific research.
The standard commentary to the German civil code (Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch –BGB), Palandt, C. H. Beck-Verlag, München 2006, 65th edition, Vol. 7, § 1684, Rd-Nr. 7, p. 1970 and 2007, 66th edition, Vol. 7, § 1684, Rd.-Nr. 7, p. 1975 refers to Warshak’s paper in connection with the Parental Alienation Syndrome.
- 3 . A concise description of the Parental Alienation Syndrome by the American psychologist and attorney, D. Lorandos, PhD., JD., co-editor of the International Handbook of Parental Alienation Syndrome can be seen online at:
<http://www.falsely-accused.net/clientvideos/clientWMV/Parental%20Alienation%20cases.wmv> (7:22 min.)
- 4 . The documentary on the topic of child abduction and alienation, “Victims of Another War – The Aftermath of Parental Alienation”, with interviews of three adult victims is suitable as an

educational film for divorce related professions. A description of this film can be found in Summers, C. C. & Summers, D.M. (2006): "Parentectomy in the crossfire", *American Journal of Family Therapy*, **34** (3): 243 -261, DVD, 30 min. Orders: www.victimsofanotherwar.com .

- 5 . For the further training of family judges on the topic of PAS with its three degrees of severity the Superior Court of Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ (M. K. Jones) created in 2003 the documentary "Children of Divorce –A View for the Bench" (DVD, 42 min.). Orders: <http://www.familysupportcenter.com/tiesandknots/videos.html>. A description of this film can also be found in the above article by Summers & Summers.
- 6 . a) The film "Family Ties and Knots: Children of Divorce" is suitable for facilitating the contact between non-custodial parents and their children. The film can be used for making parents aware of the harmful effects of alienating behaviour. Orders: <http://www.familysupportcenter.com/tiesandknots/videos.html> (16 min., DVD, also online as video stream and for download).
- b) The film "Family Ties and Knots: Parents on the See-saw" can be helpful for parents who try to engage in constructive discussions, in order to promote a positive contact of the child with both parents and for conveying a feeling of continuity and stability between the two parental households. A psychologist informs on visiting models and schedules, which are suitable or not for the various age groups. Orders: <http://www.familysupportcenter.com/tiesandknots/videos.html> (25 min., DVD, also online as preview and for download).
- 7 . We would also like to mention the studies by Baker (2005 and 2007) about long-term effects of parent-child alienation and of Baker & Darnall (2006) about alienation strategies:
 - a) Baker, A. J. L. (2005). The Long-Term Effects of Parental Alienation on Adult Children: A Qualitative Research Study. *American Journal of Family Therapy*, **33**: 289 – 302.
 - b) Baker, A. J. L. & Darnall, D. (2006). Behaviors and Strategies Employed in Parental Alienation: A Survey of Parental Experiences, *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*. **45** (1/2): 97 – 123.
 - c) Baker, A. J. L. (2007). *Adult Children of Parental Alienation Syndrome – Breaking the Ties that Bind*. W. W. Norton & Company, New York, London
- 8 . We would like to draw attention to the book by E. Schmidt & A. Mees, "Vergiss, dass es Dein Vater ist! Ehemals entfremdete Kinder im Gespräch", Books on Demand GmbH, Mainz 2006. In this book four children of separation at the current ages of 15, 20, 28 and 34 tell in interviews, how they experienced the separation of their parents and the loss of their father. They describe their experiences with youth welfare authorities and the courts and also report on the re-encounter with their father. These reports once again confirm: Children need both parents, regardless whether the parents remain together or not.
- 9 . Professionals, as well as affected parents, frequently report to us that the self-help book by Gabriele ten Hövel, "Liebe Mama, böser Papa – Eltern-Kind-Entfremdung nach Trennung und Scheidung –Das PAS-Syndrom" (Kösel, Munich, 2003) is found to be very helpful.
- 10 . The psychological consequences of PAS-induction for manipulated, alienated children of divorce and for mothers and fathers affected by alienation and rupture of contacts are considered by v. Boch-Galhau & Kodjoe in *Interdisziplinäre Fachzeitschrift Kindesmisshandlung und –vernachlässigung* **6** (1/2) 2003, p. 66 – 97, Deutsche Gesellschaft gegen Kindesmisshandlung und –vernachlässigung (DGgKV; www.dggkv.de) – with case histories.
- 11 . The topics "Parental Alienation Syndrome", "Patterns of Behavior and Personality Structure of Alienating Parents" and "Problems of child psychiatric attestations in visitation- and custody conflicts" are dealt with by W. Andritzky in: *Deutsches Ärzteblatt*, **100** (2) 2003, p. 81 – 82, in: *Psychotherapie in Psychiatrie, Psychotherapeutischer Medizin und klinischer*

Psychologie 7 (2) 2002, p. 166 – 182 and in: *Praxis der Kinderpsychologie und Kinderpsychiatrie*, 52 (10) 2003, p. 794 – 811.

- 12 . To interested French speaking colleagues we would like to point out that the Belgian journal *Divorce et Séparation* N° 3, 2005 (www.labor.be) and the French journals *Synapse, Journal de Psychiatrie et Système Nerveux Central*, N° 227 (Sept.), 2006: 11 – 18 (info@nha.fr) and *Revue Internationale de Psychosociologie* Vol. XIII, N° 30, 2007, p. 89 - 111 (www.eska.fr) deal extensively with the topics of „*Aliénation Parentale*“ and „*Syndrome d'Aliénation Parentale*“ (SAP).
- 13 . A survey of the current international, scientific literature on parent-child-alienation and PAS can be found at: <http://home.att.net/~rawars/pasarticles.html> .
- 14 . A) On July 20th 2006 the European Court on Human Rights at Strasbourg came to a sensational decision in the family conflict case of Koudelka vs. The Czech Republic (App.- No. 1633/05), regarding a violation of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In paragraphs 35, 39 and 62 the term "*Syndrome d'Aliénation Parentale*" is used explicitly, which amounts to a legal recognition of the PAS phenomenon by this high supranational court.

The decision (in French) can be found at the web site of the ECHR (<http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Case-Law/HUDOC/HUDOC+database/> List of recent judgements – Search – select French as language – enter application number). A detailed commentary, with a partial translation from the French into German, which we recommend, can be found at www.vaeterfuerkinder.de/Koudelka_Teil.htm. The press comment is in english:

B) On April 18th 2007 the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg (Familycase Zavrel ./ Czech. Republic; App-Nr. 14044/05) took another important decision, because of violation of article 8 of the Human Rights-Convention. In articles 16, 24, 28, 45, 52 the *Syndrome d'Aliénation Parentale*, which was diagnosed by a czech. psychological expert, is expressively named with a specific substantiation especially in articles 48, 50, 52 and 53. The judgement can be found in french language on the web-site of the ECHR <http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Case-Law/HUDOC/HUDOC+database/> . List of recent judgements Search, choose French as language, tipp: applicationnumber 14044/05. The press comment is in english: <http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int/tkp197/view.asp?item=2&portal=hbkm&action=html&highlight=14044%20%7C%2014044/05&sessionId=1334700&skin=hudoc-pr-fr>

- 15 . Numerous international experts recommend that the diagnosis “Parental Alienation Syndrome”, in the sense of an induced child disorder, as a consequence of severely manipulative parental aberrant behavior in separation and divorce, be included in DSM V of the *American Psychiatric Association*. It remains to be seen whether sufficient clinical research results will exist at the time of the concluding preparation phase for DSM, in order to further clarify open questions on the validity and reliability of the PAS diagnosis, on long-term effects of PAS-induction on the child of divorce, and on the effectiveness of intervention for the various degrees of this particular child disorder. Various studies so far indicate that moderate to severe alienation scenarios require, besides guiding psychotherapeutic treatment, first of all structural intervention in the form of court directed custody-, visitation-, and residence orders, in order to protect the contact of the child with both parents. An important clinical research topic appears to be a clarification in as far there are connections between induction of PAS in the child of divorce and later Borderline-, personality-, or other trauma- related disorders in the adult. Furthermore: whether and what kind of psycho-pathology can be found in severely alienating parents, what role the alienated parent and perhaps also the participating professionals possibly play in the process of alienation. It remains to hope that the considerable confusion on the concept of *Parental Alienation* and *Parental Alienation Syndrome* can soon be ended, in order to better, as up to now, help pathologically alienated children of divorce. (In the psychodynamics of severe PAS one can find a relationship to the Stockholm-Syndrome, in some cases also to the Munchausen

Syndrome by Proxy; the affected children depend on outside help.)

- 16 . A form of interdisciplinary cooperation, practiced successfully since 1993 in the court district of Cochem, Rheinland-Pfalz, and known meanwhile in Germany as “Cochem Practice” (see www.ak-cochem.de) appears to us as an effective means for preventing the development of PAS and of the social, medical-psychological and economic consequences connected with it. The Cochem methodology, in the sense of "Konfliktlösung durch multiprofessionelle Vernetzung" and of a "Verordnete Kooperation im Familienkonflikt als Prozess der Einstellungsänderung" is described in more detail by Fuchsle-Voigt, from a psychological point of view (in *Familie, Partnerschaft und Recht [FPR]* 10 (11) 2004: 600 – 602, and in *Divorce et Séparation*, 5, 2006: 101 – 109). The Cochem methodology was developed from practical working experience and has its theoretical foundations in the classical social-psychological attitude research and in the well known dissonance theory (L. Festinger). This methodology aims at the reduction of conflicts and the restitution of parental autonomy and responsibility, on the basis of the protection of the rights of children, as well as of the parents.

Sincerely,

Dr. med. W. v. Boch-Galhau

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P.S.: If you think, further informations, articles etc. about the PAS-problem could be helpful for you, don't hesitate to contact me.