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Subject: How should advocates challenge an abuser's claim of Parental Alienation Syndrome?

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"A must for every practitioner who is representing abuse survivors ..."

Representing the Domestic Violence Survivor

By Barry Goldstein, J.D. and Elizabeth Liu, J.D.

How should advocates challenge an abuser's claim of Parental Alienation Syndrome?

PAS, and its new iteration, parental or child alienation, is a widely discredited junk science theory (recently rejected in DSM-V) often used successfully by abusers to prevent a full investigation into allegations of domestic violence and child abuse. Most judges are not aware of the origin and history of this theory—it was developed by a father who also argued that sex between children and adults can be acceptable—and surely would not want to support a theory that promotes incest. Advocates have to be prepared to challenge PAS in court..

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—***Margaret B. Drew, J.D., LL.M., Domestic Violence Consultant**

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