

WHY STUDY PARENTAL ALIENATION?

- Pure PA may be rare, but enduringly **SERIOUS** for a child ~
- If you're involved with **SEPARATED FAMILIES AT ALL** you need to learn PA
- And family therapists especially ~
 - Plus it's fascinating!

~ AND HUGELY EXPENSIVE IN COURTS

~ IT'S FAMILIES AND SYSTEMS – THAT'S OUR JOB! AND THESE PATTERNS CAN BE FOUND IN A WIDER RANGE OF FAMILIES

... MORE REASONS TO LEARN ABOUT PA

- Huge relief for CLIENTS to find the PA idea fits
- Learn about rare pure PA to SPOT & STOP it early (before anyone starts talking about PA at all)
- Learn WHEN TO USE “PA” language and when to avoid using it
- Learn PA to learn ABOUT full range of separation
 - Learn collaborative integrative approaches with multi-agencies and multi-factors

“LEARN” DOESN’T MEAN WE’VE FOUND ALL THE ANSWERS YET!

THREE KINDS OF WORK WITH PART FAMILIES

1. Ordinary therapeutic support and validation ~
 2. Systemic therapy – Subtler ways to change alienated patterns.
 3. Specific PA low profile work – what an alienated parent does while they wait ~
- NB For all of these, we need to make ourselves and our services more PA aware and welcoming ~

~ BE OPEN TO LEARNING MORE WITH OR FROM YOUR CLIENT. AT LEAST DON'T DISMISS THE REFERRAL THROUGH PREJUDICED THINKING ABOUT PAS AND GENDER LIKE I NEARLY DID WITH ROY

~ TO PROMOTE DISTANT ALIENATED CHILDREN INTO EARLIER THINKING FOR THEMSELVES; TO PREPARE FOR EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION.

~ WELCOMING TO ALL AGES AND STAGES OF ALIENATED CHILDREN, FATHERS AND MOTHERS, AND THEIR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

THREE KINDS OF WORK WITH FULLER SYSTEMS

4. More robust and effective re/unification work for families, pre and post court ~
5. Big systems work eg more proactive family courts (> Hamish; > Roy; > Nick's ~)
6. Better work and services for separated families in general ~

~ SSOPA'S CORE AIM IS TO DEVELOP OUR SYSTEMIC FAMILY THERAPY SKILLS HERE. RATHER DOMINATING IN UK IS KAREN WOODALL'S PRINCIPLED AND PERSUASIVE CHARISMATIC INTEGRATIVE WHOLE FAMILY SYSTEM APPROACH TO ENSURE CHILDREN HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH PARENTS. FAMILY THERAPISTS AND KAREN AND OUR VARIOUS APPROACHES HAVE YET TO STRIKE A HARMONIOUS WORKING RELATIONSHIP. PROBABLY EACH HAS OUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES. KAREN HAS LONG EXPERIENCE AND CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE A NATURAL SERVICE TO REFER TO. // WE NEED MORE PA EXPERIENCED EXPERT WITNESS AND COURT-LINKED WORK

~ FAMILY THERAPY HAS GONE RATHER REFLECTIVE AND CONTAINED WITHIN THE THERAPY ROOM, BUT IT USED TO AND COULD NOW SPREAD ITS WINGS INTO "BIG SYSTEMS", NOT JUST CLIENT FAMILIES. SO, WE CAN DO COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH, OR TEACHING – EG WITH MEDIATORS, CAFCASS, LAWYERS, JUDGES, SOCIAL WORKERS etc Hamish (and Nick) have been teaching Scottish Family Court Sheriffs. Hamish has developed a way to get Family Courts to be more directive. ROY WILL SAY MORE ON HIS BIG SYSTEM PROPOSED SOLUTION. For Nick's Big Systems Proposal, see next slide notes.

~ DEVELOP NEW WAYS IN ALL OUR PROFESSIONS, AND IN SHARED LEARNING WITH FAMILIES AND OTHER PROFESSIONS INVOLVED

FURTHER LEARNING ~

- Key Texts
- **www.forallthat.com** > Children
Resisting Contact > links ++
- Join SSoPA Email: nick.child@virgin.net
- And now our new blog:
thealienationexperience.org.uk

~ REMEMBER: LEARN MORE OR DON'T WORK WITH SEPARATED FAMILIES

~ THE NEW PLACE TO GO: OUR NEW BLOG:

thealienationexperience.org.uk

~ TO JOIN SSOPA, EMAIL: NICK.CHILD@VIRGIN.NET Other developments to support a learning network are being worked out.

PS ~ NICK'S "BIG SYSTEM" PLAN: IF ANY COURT CASE LASTS LONGER THAN SO MANY (SPECIFIED) DAYS IT BE AUTOMATICALLY DECLARED A CASE OF LIKELY EMOTIONAL ABUSE. SO A REFERRAL IS MADE TO CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES TO ASSESS – THEY WILL OF COURSE NEED TO BE MORE TRAINED AND RESOURCED FOR THIS WORK. NICK PREDICTS THAT FAMILIES WHO ARE QUITE HAPPY TO SPEND LOTS OF TIME AND MONEY IN COURTS (FIGHTING EACH OTHER, NOT FOR THE CHILDREN) WILL BE CONSTRUCTIVELY PUT OFF BEING CATEGORISED AS "EMOTIONALLY ABUSIVE" AND "SOCIAL WORK CASES". OR THEY WILL BE HELPED! THIS WOULD HELP INTEGRATE APPROACHES TO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CASES, SO DIVIDED IN HOW THEY GET TREATED JUST NOW.