

BERMUDA



PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY April 25, 2007

WHEREAS, alienating behaviors are common during adversarial divorce and custody situations

WHEREAS, these behaviors, such as speaking negatively about a parent to, or in front of, a child; interfering with communication and visitation; moving and leaving no contact information; and discussing inappropriate information with a child, such as details of the marriage, divorce, or court proceedings, can damage or destroy the bond between a loving parent and child;

WHEREAS, Parental Alienation involves taking advantage of the suggestibility and dependency of children with the sole purpose of destroying a loving and warm relationship they once shared with a parent; and

WHEREAS, the most common symptom of children affected by Parental Alienation is their severe opposition to, or fear of, contact with one parent when there is no justifiable cause to explain the child's behavior; and

WHEREAS, Parental Alienation deprives children of their right to love and be loved by both parents; and

WHEREAS, Parental Alienation is considered damaging to children as the alienating tactics used are confusing, frightening, and rob children of their sense of security; and

WHEREAS, professionals agree that the problem of Parental Alienation exists and can affect children into adulthood with such consequences as low self esteem, depression, increased drug and alcohol use, and difficulties in their own relationships; and

WHEREAS, divorce, affects numerous children under the age of eighteen, with nearly as many unmarried couples with children separating; and numbers continue to increase and

WHEREAS, with awareness comes education and understanding, and the power to stop this little heard of type of abuse of innocent children caught in the crossfire of the people they love:

THEREFORE, I

The Hon Dale Butler M.P. J.P.

Minister of Rehabilitation do hereby **proclaim April 25, 2007 as PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY** in these Islands of Bermuda and pray this day will inaugurate the termination of this destructive form of child abuse.