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To Families in “High-Conflict” Divorce:

The professional term for domestic violence is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

The reason you're called "targeted parents" is because you are being "targeted" for intimate partner emotional abuse; emotional violence. Your ex- is using the child as a weapon of revenge and retaliation against you for the divorce.

You've known that. You've always known that.

Narcissistic-Borderline Parent: "How dare you divorce me. I'll show you. You'll be sorry you divorced me. I'll take your child away from you. I'll destroy the loving bond you had with your beloved child. You'll be sorry you divorced me. I'll make you suffer for it."

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV); emotional abuse of the ex-spouse following divorce, using the child as the weapon.

The children are being used by a narcissistic/(borderline) spouse-and-parent to emotionally abuse the other spouse-and-parent for the divorce. This pathology is a form of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) involving the emotional abuse and traumatization (complex trauma; traumatic grief) of the targeted parent by a narcissistic/(borderline) personality ex-spouse.

And forensic psychology is colluding with and is complicit in the domestic violence (IPV) and abuse of the targeted parents.

My recommendation to targeted parents is to seek at least six months of trauma informed treatment for your PTSD (complex trauma; traumatic grief). I recommend you seek this therapy from an IPV informed mental health professional.

Mental Health Involvement:

All mental health reports surrounding your families, by therapists and evaluators, should have a dedicated section to examining the possibility of IPV factors involved with the allied parent using the child as a weapon of power, control, domination, and emotional abuse directed toward the targeted parent (targeted for IPV).

In all cases, how was the potential for IPV targeting the rejected parent assessed? What were the findings and conclusions? This should be documented in all mental health reports surrounding court-involved, complex conflict families.

How was the potential for possible Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) directed by the allied parent toward the targeted parent, using the children as weapons of emotional abuse, assessed? What were the findings and conclusions? All cases.

- How was IPV assessed? (i.e., the possible emotional abuse of the ex-spouse using the child as a weapon of revenge and retaliation for the divorce; how was this assessed)
- What were the findings and conclusions?
- Documented. All cases.

If you are an involved mental health professional and have NOT assessed for IPV toward the targeted-rejected parent using the child as the weapon of revenge and retaliation for the divorce... why not?

In my view as a clinical psychologist, the failure to even assess is a failure in the professional's duty to protect - the duty to protect the targeted parent victim of IPV. Have you assessed? No? Then how do you know?

IPV - Intimate Partner Violence - the emotional abuse of the targeted parent by the ex-spouse in retaliation and revenge for the divorce, using the child as the weapon.

We are done accepting the emotional abuse of targeted parents, and we are done accepting the psychological abuse of children. Mental health professionals need to do their job.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Childress', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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