

Silence is Complicity

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"If I were to remain silent, I'd be guilty of complicity" - Albert Einstein

Every professional organization for psychology has written ethical codes of conduct governing the practice of professional psychology, and in each of these codes are Standards that require – require – professional competence.

A 1997 study examining the ethical codes for professional psychology organizations in 24 countries found that 90% of these ethical codes contained Standards requiring professional competence (Leach & Harbin, 1997),² including the Standards for Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, South Africa, Poland, France, and Scandinavia.

Yet in all of these nations, profound professional ignorance and incompetence is tolerated in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of parent-child attachment-related pathology surrounding divorce.

At what point does the silence of these professional organizations become complicity with professional ignorance and incompetence? At what point does the silence of the British Psychological Society, the Australian Psychological Society, the French Psychological Society, and all the others become complicity with professional ignorance and incompetence?

In their silence, these professional organizations are tacitly allowing rampant professional ignorance and incompetence in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of attachment-related pathology to go unchecked.

Silence is complicity.

Child Psychological Abuse

Pathogenic parenting: patho=pathology; genic=genesis, creation. Pathogenic parenting is the creation of significant psychopathology in the child through aberrant and distorted parenting practices.

Pathogenic parenting is an established construct in both developmental and clinical psychology and is most often used in relation to attachment-related pathology, since the attachment system never spontaneously dysfunctions, but **ONLY** becomes dysfunctional in response to pathogenic parenting.

¹ International adaptation of a blog post from Dr. Childress, 7/8/17; The Silence of the APA, <https://drcraigchildressblog.com/2017/07/09/the-silence-of-the-apa/>

² Leach, M.M. and Harbin, J. (1997). Psychological ethics codes: A comparison of twenty-four countries. *International Journal of Psychology*, 1997, 32, 181-192.

The attachment system is the brain system that governs all aspects of love and bonding throughout the lifespan, including grief and loss. A child rejecting a parent is fundamentally an attachment-related pathology caused by pathogenic parenting, either by the targeted-rejected parent (through child abuse), or by the allied and supposedly "favored" parent (through a cross-generational coalition of the child with the allied parent against the targeted-rejected parent; Bowen, Haley, Minuchin).

Pathogenic parenting that is creating significant developmental pathology in the child (attachment system suppression), personality pathology in the child (five a-priori predicted narcissistic personality traits), and delusional-psychiatric pathology in the child (an encapsulated persecutory delusion) represents a DSM-5 diagnosis of **V995.51 Child Psychological Abuse**, Confirmed.

Many-many-many court-involved mental health professionals are NOT EVEN ASSESSING for the standard psychological symptoms of attachment-system suppression, personality disorder traits, and an encapsulated persecutory delusion that are created by one parent's pathogenic parenting. As a result, these mental health professionals are missing making the diagnosis of Child Psychological Abuse. They are allowing, through their ignorance and incompetence, the continued psychological abuse of the child.

And professional organizations remain silent.

The silence of these professional organizations becomes complicity in the ongoing psychological abuse of children.

Incompetent Assessment

In the United States, Standard 9.01a of the APA's ethics code requires - **requires** - that psychologists base their diagnostic statements and forensic testimony on "information and techniques sufficient to substantiate their findings," yet many-many-many court-involved mental health professionals are NOT EVEN ASSESSING for the symptoms of attachment-system suppression, personality disorder traits, and an encapsulated persecutory delusion that are created by the pathogenic parenting of a narcissistic/(borderline) personality parent.

Not even assessing. Yet the APA says nothing.

The silence of professional organizations becomes complicit in the ignorant and incompetent assessment of pathology. Professional organizations allow professional incompetence by remaining silent.

Professional Competence

Attachment-Related Pathology

Mental health professionals who are assessing, diagnosing, and treating attachment-related pathology need to be professionally knowledgeable and competent in the attachment system, what it is, how it functions, and how it characteristically dysfunctions.

Failure to possess professional-level knowledge regarding the attachment system when assessing, diagnosing, and treating attachment-related pathology would represent practice beyond the boundaries of professional competence in violation of professional standards of practice.

Many-many-many court-involved psychologists have no professional-level expertise in the attachment system, and yet they are nevertheless attempting to assess, diagnose, and treat attachment-related pathology despite their professional ignorance and incompetence regarding the characteristic functioning and dysfunctioning of the attachment system.

When professional organizations remain silent; their silence becomes complicity.

Personality Disorder Pathology

Mental health professionals who are assessing, diagnosing, and treating personality disorder related pathology as it is affecting family relationships need to be professionally knowledgeable and competent in personality disorder pathology, what it is, how it develops, how it functions, and how it characteristically affects family relationships following divorce.

Failure to possess professional-level knowledge regarding personality disorder pathology when assessing, diagnosing, and treating personality disorder related pathology in the family would represent practice beyond the boundaries of professional competence in violation of professional standards of practice.

Many-many-many court-involved psychologists lack professional-level expertise in personality disorder pathology, and yet despite their professional ignorance and incompetence these mental health professionals are nevertheless attempting to assess, diagnose, and treat family pathology that is being created by a parent's personality disorder pathology, to the great and lasting harm and detriment of these families.

And the professional organizations remain silent.

Silence is complicity.

Family Systems Pathology

Mental health professionals who are assessing, diagnosing, and treating families need to be professionally knowledgeable and competent in the functioning of family systems and the principles of family systems therapy.

Failure to possess professional-level knowledge regarding the functioning of family systems and the principles of family systems therapy when assessing, diagnosing, and treating family pathology would represent practice beyond the boundaries of professional competence in violation of professional standards of practice.

Many-many-many court-involved psychologists have no professional-level expertise in family systems therapy and family systems constructs, and yet despite their professional ignorance and incompetence regarding the nature of family interrelationships these mental health

professionals are nevertheless attempting to assess, diagnose, and treat family pathology involving complex family dynamics.

And the professional organizations remain silent.

Silence is complicity.

Complex Trauma

Mental health professionals who are assessing, diagnosing, and treating the trans-generational transmission of complex trauma within family relationships need to be professionally knowledgeable and competent in the nature of complex trauma, as expressed both individually and through family relationships.

Failure to possess professional-level knowledge regarding the trans-generational transmission and expression of complex trauma when assessing, diagnosing, and treating family pathology involving complex trauma would represent practice beyond the boundaries of professional competence in violation of professional standards of practice.

Many-many-many court-involved psychologists have no professional-level expertise in complex trauma pathology as it is transmitted across generations, yet despite their ignorance these mental health professionals are nevertheless attempting to assess, diagnose, and treat family pathology created by the trans-generational transmission of complex attachment-related trauma, despite their professional ignorance and incompetence.

And the professional organizations remain silent.

Silence is complicity.

Complicity is Not Acceptable

Professional organizations who govern the practice of professional psychology need to do two things:

1.) Acknowledge that the pathology exists.

Professional organizations needs to formally acknowledge that the pathology of pathogenic parenting by a **narcissistic/(borderline) personality** parent (Beck, Kernberg, Linehan, Millon) forming a **cross-generational coalition** with the child against the other parent (Haley, Minuchin) following divorce can result in an **emotional cutoff** (Bowen) in the child's relationship with the targeted parent.

They can call the pathology whatever they want. Just acknowledge it exists.

2.) Special Population Status

These professional organizations need to designate the children and families evidencing this form of attachment-related family pathology surrounding divorce as a **special population** requiring specialized professional knowledge and expertise to competently assess, diagnose, and treat.

Children are being psychologically abused by the activated narcissistic and borderline personality pathology of their parents surrounding divorce, yet professional organizations remain silent.

Mental health professionals are attempting to assess, diagnose, and treat complex attachment-related personality disorder family pathology that is outside of their knowledge and beyond the boundaries of their competence, yet the professional organizations remain silent.

The time has come for all professional organizations who are responsible for governing the practice of professional psychology to speak up. Their continued silence becomes complicity with the psychological abuse of children and becomes collusion with professional ignorance and incompetence.

"Silence becomes cowardice when occasion demands speaking out the whole truth and acting accordingly." – Mohandas Gandhi

The silence of professional organizations becomes complicity in the psychological abuse of children. – C.A. Childress

To mental health professional organizations: The pathology of pathogenic parenting by a narcissistic/(borderline) parent surrounding divorce exists. You know it exists. Say something. Continued silence becomes complicity.