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Parental Alienation Study Group - DSM-5 Update

1 message

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Hello PASG members:

Many members of PASG and other people have been asking whether parental alienation will be mentioned or represented in some way in DSM-5. I will tell you what I have learned, but we may not know for sure until May 2013 when the book is published.

As I previously reported, the DSM-5 leadership said a long time ago that they do not want parental alienation to become a separate, new diagnosis with its own coding number. However, they have always left open the idea that parental alienation could be mentioned in the text or discussion of some other diagnosis that is already in DSM-5.

As far as I can tell, the words "parental alienation" will not be in DSM-5. However, it seems very likely that the *concept* of parental alienation and the *definition* of parental alienation will be mentioned in at least two places in DSM-5. The diagnosis of parent-child relational problem is already in DSM; I've been told that the *concept* of parental alienation will be in the discussion of parent-child relational problem. Also, child psychological abuse is a new diagnosis in DSM-5, although it has previously been in ICD; I've been told that the actual *definition* of parental alienation will be mentioned as an example of child psychological abuse. There is another new diagnosis in DSM-5, which is called parental relationship distress affecting children; that diagnosis may also be relevant for individuals affected by parental alienation.

I have asked senior personnel at DSM-5 to confirm the exact text that will be in the published version of DSM-5. They would not give me that information, saying that the entire content of DSM-5 has been "embargoed" until the publication in May 2013. That means that the publisher has insisted that details of DSM-5 not be released to the general public until the actual publication date.

That's what I know about parental alienation and DSM-5. If any of you have additional information that can be shared, please let me know.

All the best, Bill

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