

4/17/23

To: The Honorable Sen. Susan Rubio

Re: SB-331 Child custody: child abuse and safety

I am a licensed clinical psychologist in California and an expert testifying witness and consultant in the family courts surrounding child custody conflict. I have six relevant domains of specialized expertise supported by my vitae (Appendix 1);<sup>1</sup> attachment pathology, child abuse and complex trauma, delusional thought disorders, Factious Disorder Imposed on Another, family systems therapy, and court-involved child custody conflict. I have previously presented to national conventions of the APA and AFCC, I have invited testimony to the Pennsylvania House Children and Youth Committee (available on YouTube),<sup>2</sup> an invited presentation to the Law Society of Saskatchewan, and I was invited to speak with the Dutch Ministry of Justice when I presented at Erasmus University in the Netherlands. I am currently serving as a consultant in clinical psychology in the family courts.<sup>3</sup>

I want to express my deep concerns about the unbalanced nature of the judicial education curriculum identified in SB-331. Based on my background in professional psychology and the family courts, the judicial education curriculum proposed by SB-331 is inadequate and unbalanced regarding the concerns of the respective litigants. There are two litigants in court-involved custody conflict, and it is vital that the concerns of both litigants should receive fair and balanced examination from the court. Each parent in the custody litigation is making allegations of child abuse by the other parent, and the educational material provided to judges needs to be balanced to each litigant's concerns.

1. **Allegation 1:** The allied parent is making allegations that the targeted-rejected parent is abusing the child in some way, and that this abuse is resulting in the child's attachment pathology toward that parent.
2. **Allegation 2:** The targeted parent is making allegations that the allied parent is psychologically abusing the child (DSM-5 V995.51) by creating a shared persecutory delusion and false (factitious) attachment pathology in the child for secondary gain to the pathological parent of manipulating the court's decisions surrounding child custody (Greenham & Childress, 2023).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Childress domains of specialized expertise: <https://drcachildress-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/domains-of-specialized-expertise-1-1-23-2.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Childress Pennsylvania House Testimony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ala1KbfsWIM&>

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Childress website: [drcachildress-consulting.com](https://drcachildress-consulting.com)

<sup>4</sup> Greenham, M.B. and Childress, C.A. (2023). Dark Personalities and Induced Delusional Disorders, Part 1: Solving the Gordian knot of conflict in the family and domestic violence courts. ResearchGate doi: [10.13140/RG.2.2.28643.22568](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.28643.22568):

While the curriculum content associated with the concerns of the allied parent is contained within SB-331, the educational curriculum of concern to the targeted parent is not contained in the proposed judicial curriculum. The unbalanced curriculum provided to judges by SB-331 will introduce a systematic bias in the court's decision-making in favor of one litigant's position. The pathology of concern to the targeted parent is possible Child Psychological Abuse (DSM-5 V995.51), i.e., a shared persecutory delusion created by the allied parent.

The only cause of severe attachment pathology is child abuse by one parent or the other. The diagnostic question is which parent? The pathology of concern to the targeted parent is described in the attached handout (Pathology Description Handout).<sup>5</sup> In all cases of severe attachment pathology surrounding child custody conflict, a proper risk assessment needs to be conducted to the appropriate differential diagnosis for each parent.

A balanced curriculum relevant to each litigant's child abuse concerns should be provided to judges so that they can provide an educated, fair, and balanced examination of the concerns of each parent-litigant. Suggestions for adjusting the Judicial Education Curriculum proposed by SB-331 are offered in Appendix 2. In addition to minor wording changes to the proposed curriculum to provide balanced information to judges relative to the concerns of both litigants, additional content areas are warranted, including:

- Narcissistic, borderline, and dark personality pathology
- Family systems constructs
- Attachment & attachment pathology

### **Pilot Program for the Family Courts**

Resolving the attachment-related pathology in the family courts (i.e., a child rejecting a parent) requires the development of standardized diagnostic assessment and treatment protocols to end the professional and parental fighting surrounding the child. This goal could be achieved through a pilot program for the family courts in California with university involvement to develop the necessary diagnostic assessment and treatment protocols, and the supporting legal arguments for a treatment-oriented solution. On April 27 and 28 I have been invited to present at a conference in Belgrade, Serbia and I will be critiquing SB-331 as an example for legislation, judicial educational curriculums, and an example pilot program proposal available for California. The Powerpoint slides for the California pilot program section of my upcoming presentation in Belgrade are attached as Appendix 3.



Craig Childress, Psy.D.  
Clinical Psychologist, CA PSY 18857

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<sup>5</sup> Pathology Description Handout: <https://drcachildress-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/1-Pathology-Description-Handout-10-22-1.pdf>

## **Appendix 1: Dr. Childress Domains of Specialized Professional Background**

My vitae in supports the following six domains of specialized expertise in professional psychology:

1. Thought disorders and delusional pathology
2. Child abuse assessment, diagnosis, and treatment
3. The attachment system and attachment pathology
4. Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another (FDIA)
5. Family systems therapy
6. Court-involved custody conflict

### **Thought Disorders & Delusions**

In support of my specialized expertise in the assessment and diagnosis of thought disorders and delusions are 12 years of experience at a major UCLA clinical research project on schizophrenia where I received annual training in the assessment and diagnosis of delusions and thought disorders using the *Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale* (BPRS) to diagnostic reliability of  $r=.90$  to the co-directors of the Diagnostic Unit at the UCLA-Brentwood VA, Dr. Lukoff and Dr. Ventura. The entry on my vitae for this work experience while I was at Dr. Nuechterlein's project at UCLA is:

#### 9/85 - 9/98 Research Associate

UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute

Principle Investigator: Keith Nuechterlein, Ph.D.

Area: Longitudinal study of initial-onset schizophrenia. Received annual training to research and clinical reliability in the rating of psychotic symptoms using the Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS). Managed all aspects of data collection and data processing.

Note that I was trained annually in the rating of delusional and psychotic symptoms using the *Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale* (BPRS). Wikipedia describes the BPRS:

From Wikipedia: "The Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS) is a rating scale which a clinician or researcher may use to measure psychiatric symptoms such as depression, anxiety, hallucinations and unusual behaviour. The scale is one of the oldest, most widely used scales to measure psychotic symptoms and was first published in 1962... An expanded version of the test was created in 1993 by D. Lukoff, Keith H. Nuechterlein, and Joseph Ventura."

The date of the BPRS revision was 1993. I was at Dr. Neuchterlein's project from 1985-to-1998 where I was trained annually in the assessment and diagnosis of delusional and thought disorder pathology to an  $r=.90$  diagnostic reliability with the co-directors of the Diagnostic Unit at the UCLA-Brentwood VA and authors of the Expanded BPRS, Dr.

Ventura and Dr. Lukoff. I have considerable professional training, background, and experience in the diagnostic assessment of thought disorders and delusional pathology,

### **Child Abuse Pathology**

Regarding my background in child abuse pathology, I served as the Clinical Director for a three-university assessment and treatment center for children ages zero-to-five in the foster care system. Our primary referral source was Child Protective Services (CPS). As the Clinical Director for a three-university treatment center for children in foster care, I supervised the multi-disciplinary assessment and treatment of child abuse. I have personally worked with all four DSM-5 child abuse diagnoses, and I have led the treatment teams that have included CPS social worker involvement. The entry for this experience on my vitae is:

10/06 - 6/08: Clinical Director

START Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Treatment Center  
California State University, San Bernardino  
Institute of Child Development and Family Relations

Clinical director for an early childhood assessment and treatment center providing comprehensive developmental assessment and psychotherapy services to children ages 0-5 years old in foster care. Directed the clinical operations, clinical staff, and the provision of comprehensive psychological assessment and treatment services across clinic-based, home-based, and school-based services. The clinic was a three-university collaboration with speech and language services provided through the University of Redlands, occupational therapy provided through Loma Linda University, and psychology services through Calif. State University, San Bernardino.

### **Attachment System & Attachment Pathology**

I have specialty background in Early Childhood Mental Health, ages zero-to-five initially obtained from training with Dr. Marie Poulsen at CHLA and subsequently extended with professional practice. Early Childhood Mental Health ages 0-to-5 is a restricted sub-specialty domain of practice because it requires extensive knowledge of brain development in infancy through the first five years of life. Early Childhood Mental Health specialization requires understanding the neuro-development for each brain system individually (cognitive, language, sensory-motor, emotional, memory, and relationship systems) as well as how they integrate with each other at each developmental period of maturation in the first year of infancy and beyond into all the subsequent maturational changes.

The period of early childhood is directly the developmental period of the child's early attachment formation to the parent. Within this specialty background, I know two additional diagnostic systems for early childhood pathology besides the DSM-5 diagnostic system of the American Psychiatric Association, the DC:0-3 which is more attachment sensitive, and the DMIC which is stronger with autistic spectrum disorders. I am also trained in two early childhood attachment therapies, *Watch, Wait, and Wonder* for infants and *Circle of Security* for preschool-age children, and I am Certified in Infant Mental Health from Fielding Graduate Institute. The entries for this experience on my vitae are:

Early Childhood Diagnostic System: DC:0-3R Diagnostic Criteria: Orange County Early Childhood Mental Health Collaborative.

Early Childhood Diagnostic System: DMIC: Diagnostic Manual for Infancy and Early Childhood. Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders: assessment, diagnosis, and intervention for developmental and emotional disorders, autistic spectrum disorders, multisystem developmental disorders, regulatory disorders involving attention, learning and behavioral problems, cognitive, language, motor, and sensory disturbances.

Early Childhood Treatment Intervention: Watch, Wait, and Wonder: Nancy Cohen, Ph.D. Hincks-Dellcrest Centre & the University of Toronto.

Early Childhood Treatment Intervention: Circle of Security: Glen Cooper, MFT, Center for Clinical Intervention, Marycliff Institute, Spokane, Washington.

Certificate Program: Parent-Infant Mental Health: Fielding Graduate University, 1/14/08; 1/15/08.

The attachment system is the brain system that governs all aspects of love and bonding throughout the lifespan, including grief and loss. The attachment system develops its patterns (“internal working models”) for love-and-bonding during childhood and then uses these internalized patterns for love-and-bonding (attachment) to guide future expectations for all future love and bonding experiences in adulthood.

**From Bowlby:** “No variables, it is held, have more far-reaching effects on personality development than have a child’s experiences within his family: for, starting during the first months of his relations with his mother figure, and extending through the years of childhood and adolescence in his relations with both parents, he builds up working models of how attachment figures are likely to behave towards him in any of a variety of situations; and on those models are based all his expectations, and therefore all his plans for the rest of his life.” (Bowlby, 1973, p. 369).<sup>6</sup>

The clinical domain of attachment and attachment pathology is within the Early Childhood Mental Health specialization, and my clinical experience is with children ages zero-to-five in foster care, which is directly attachment pathology. A child rejecting a parent surrounding court-involved custody conflict is a problem in attachment to that parent, i.e., a problem in the love-and-bonding system of the brain,

### **Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another**

I have specialized professional background and training in the diagnostic assessment of Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another (FDIA: Munchausen by proxy) from three years of training in pediatric psychology from Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), and my subsequent tenure on medical staff as a pediatric psychologist at Children’s Hospital Orange County (Choc). FDIA is generally thought of as inducing a false medical pathology in the child for secondary gain to the parent from doctor attention given

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<sup>6</sup> Bowlby, J. (1973). Attachment and loss: Vol. 2. Separation: Anxiety and anger. NY: Basic.

to the supposedly “nurturing” parent (with histrionic/borderline personality associations). As a false medical (or psychiatric) pathology produced in the child by the parent, FDIA is difficult to diagnose by community professionals because it is a false disorder, with frequent changes in providers as part of the symptom presentation. Community professionals are typically unable to determine a cause for the false symptoms, and when they begin to become suspicious as to their cause, the pathological parent changes providers to avoid detection and to obtain the diagnosis they seek (“doctor-shopping”).

As a result of the false disorder imposed on the child, the parent and child will eventually be referred into the upper levels of the healthcare system, the local Children’s Hospital, for a more expert diagnosis, since the community resources cannot determine the cause of the child’s symptoms. When FDIA is suspected by the treatment team at the Children’s Hospital, a doctor’s order is written for a consultation from the hospital’s Psychology Department regarding a potential diagnosis of FDIA. A pediatric psychologist is then sent from the hospital’s Psychology Department to assess and diagnose the possible FDIA.

As a pediatric psychologist with three years of training from Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and tenure on medical staff as a pediatric psychologist at Children’s Hospital Orange County, I have relevant training and experience in the diagnostic assessment of FDIA (DSM-5 300.19). The entries on my vitae for this training and experience in the diagnostic assessment of FDIA are:

4/02 – 10/06: Pediatric Psychologist

Children's Hospital Orange County – UCI Child Development Center

9/00 – 4/02 Postdoctoral Fellow

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

9/99 - 9/00 Predoctoral Psychology Intern – APA Accredited

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

## **Family Systems Therapy**

Family systems therapy (Minuchin, Bowen, Haley, Madanes, Satir) is one of the four primary schools of psychotherapy, the others being psychoanalytic, cognitive-behavioral, and humanistic-existential therapy. My specialization training during my doctoral studies at Pepperdine University was in family systems therapy, and I have been a practicing family systems therapist for 20 years. I have additional training through the Bowen Center for Study of the Family in “*Family Rifts and How to Mend Them.*”

The Bowen Center: Emotional Cutoff: The Bowen Center for Study of the Family: 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Family Theory and Family Psychotherapy. Dr Plimer “*Family Rifts and How to Mend Them: Findings from the Cornell Estrangement and Reconciliation Project*” – three-day symposium, Johns Hopkins University, MD; 11-7/19 – 11-9-19.

## Court-Involved Family Conflict

I have been a practicing court-involved clinical psychologist for the past decade, writing multiple books and booklets addressing the pathology that develops surrounding court-involved child custody conflict, its diagnosis and treatment.<sup>7</sup> I also have multiple conference presentations regarding court-involved custody conflict, and I am cited as an expert in delusional thought disorders by Walters and Friedlander (2016)<sup>8</sup> in the journal *Family Court Review*:

- **Belgrade, Serbia:** Invited presentation to the Conference on Shared Parenting hosted by the Swedish Embassy in Belgrade. Solutions to High-Conflict Custody Litigation in the Family Courts, April 27 & 28, 2023.
- **American Psychological Association.** Empathy, the Family, and the Core of Social Justice. Childress, C.A. & Pruter, D. Paper Presentation at the APA National Convention, Division 24, 8/8/19; Chicago, IL.
- **Erasmus University Medical Center.** Attachment-Based Parental Alienation: Trauma Informed Assessment of Complex Family Conflict. Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2/25/19.
- **Dutch Ministry of Justice.** Invited meeting; 2/27/19.
- **Law Society of Saskatchewan.** Solutions for the Family Court and Professional Psychology; Saskatoon 11/20/18; Regina 11/21/18.
- **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC).** An Attachment-Based Model of Parental Alienation: Diagnosis and Treatment. Childress & Pruter, Presentation at the AFCC National Convention, 6/1/17; Boston, MA.
- **Legislature Briefing.** Pennsylvania State Legislature; House Children and Youth Committee. Solutions to High-Conflict Divorce in the Family Court. November 15, 2017; Harrisburg, PA (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ala1KbfsWIM>)

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<sup>7</sup> Childress, C.A. (2017). *Assessment of Attachment-Related Pathology Surrounding Divorce*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.

Childress, C.A. (2017). *Strategic Family Systems Intervention for AB-PA: Contingent Visitation Schedule*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.

Childress, C.A. (2016). *The Narcissistic Parent: A Guidebook for Legal Professionals Working with Families in High-Conflict Divorce*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.

Childress, C.A. (2015). *An Attachment-Based Model of Parental Alienation: Foundations*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.

Childress, C.A. (2015). *An Attachment-Based Model of Parental Alienation: Single Case ABAB Assessment and Remedy*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.

<sup>8</sup> Walters, M. G., & Friedlander, S. (2016). When a child rejects a parent: Working with the intractable resist/refuse dynamic. *Family Court Review*, 54(3), 424–445.

**From Walters & Friedlander:** “In some RRD families [resist-refuse dynamic], a parent’s underlying encapsulated delusion about the other parent is at the root of the intractability (cf. Johnston & Campbell, 1988, p. 53ff; **Childress**, 2013). An encapsulated delusion is a fixed, circumscribed belief that persists over time and is not altered by evidence of the inaccuracy of the belief.”

**From Walters & Friedlander:** “When alienation is the predominant factor in the RRD [resist-refuse dynamic], the theme of the favored parent’s fixed delusion often is that the rejected parent is sexually, physically, and/or emotionally abusing the child. The child may come to share the parent’s encapsulated delusion and to regard the beliefs as his/her own (cf. **Childress**, 2013).” (Walters & Friedlander, 2016, p. 426)

I have professional background and specialized expertise supported by my vitae in multiple relevant domains of professional knowledge, 1) thought disorders and delusions, 2) child abuse pathology, 3) the attachment system and attachment pathology, 4) Factitious Disorder Imposed on another (DSM-5 300.19), 5) family systems therapy, and 6) court-involved child custody conflict.

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

Craig Childress, Psy.D.  
Clinical Psychologist, PSY 18857



**Craig Childress, Psy.D.**  
**CA License #: PSY 18857**

**Office:** 271 Winslow Way E, 10631  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
email: drcachildress.bainbridge@gmail.com

**Education:**

Pepperdine University; 11/00  
Psy.D. degree in Clinical Psychology, APA accredited

California State University, Northridge; 6/85  
M.A. degree in Clinical/Community Psychology

University of California, Los Angeles; 3/78  
B.A. in Psychology, cum laude

**Recent Presentations:**

- **American Psychological Association.** Empathy, the Family, and the Core of Social Justice. Childress, C.A. & Pruter, D. Paper Presentation at the APA National Convention, Division 24, 8/8/19; Chicago, Il.
- **Erasmus University Medical Center.** Attachment-Based Parental Alienation: Trauma Informed Assessment of Complex Family Conflict. Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2/25/19.
- **Dutch Ministry of Justice.** Invited meeting; 2/27/19.
- **Law Society of Saskatchewan.** Solutions for the Family Court and Professional Psychology; Saskatoon 11/20/18; Regina 11/21/18.
- **Certification Seminars for the Houston Pilot Program for the Family Courts.** Attachment-Based Parental Alienation (AB-PA). 5/22-24/18; Houston, Texas.
- **California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (CALPCC).** Parental Alienation Testing, Orders, and Treatment in BPD/NPD Custody Proceedings. April 20, 2018; San Francisco, CA.
- **Legislature Briefing.** Pennsylvania State Legislature; House Children and Youth Committee. Solutions to High-Conflict Divorce in the Family Court. November 15, 2017; Harrisburg, PA (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1a1KbfsWIM>)
- **Legislature Briefing.** Massachusetts State Legislature. Grandparent and Family Alienation; Hosted by Representative Walsh. 5/31/17; Boston MA.
- **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC).** An Attachment-Based Model of Parental Alienation: Diagnosis and Treatment. Childress & Pruter, Presentation at the AFCC National Convention, 6/1/17; Boston, MA.

**Professional Affiliations**

- American Psychological Association
- Credentialed with the National Register of Health Service Psychologists

## **Employment History:**

### **6/08 – Current: Private Practice**

271 Winslow Way E, 10631  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Psychotherapy with adults, couples, children, and families. Specializing in attachment pathology, ADHD, anger and impulse control problems in childhood, childhood trauma, family psychotherapy, marital therapy, and parent-child conflict. Consultation and expert testimony with court-involved family conflict.

### **10/06 - 6/08: Clinical Director**

START Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Treatment Center  
California State University, San Bernardino  
Institute of Child Development and Family Relations

Clinical director for an early childhood assessment and treatment center providing comprehensive developmental assessment and psychotherapy services to children ages 0-5 years old in foster care. Directed the clinical operations, clinical staff, and the provision of comprehensive psychological assessment and treatment services across clinic-based, home-based, and school-based services. A three-university collaboration with speech and language services through the University of Redlands, occupational therapy through Loma Linda University, and psychology through Calif. State University, San Bernardino.

### **5/03 – 10/06: Clinical Director**

Fineman Consulting Group  
Fire F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Juvenile Firesetting Intervention Program  
Executive Director: Kenneth Fineman, Ph.D.

Through grants from FEMA and the Department of Justice to develop a national model for juvenile firesetting intervention, collaborated with Dr. Fineman in developing a comprehensive clinical psychology assessment protocol for the mental health evaluation of juvenile firesetting behavior.

### **1/12 – 12/17: Faculty**

University of Phoenix; Pasadena Campus; Ontario Campus

Courses taught: Child Development; Assessment and Treatment Planning; Advanced Diagnosis; Models of Psychotherapy; Counseling Psychometrics; Research Methods; Cultural Psychology

### **1/09 – 9/10: Faculty**

Argosy University; San Bernardino Campus

Courses taught: Diagnosis and Psychopathology; Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy; Child Development

**4/02 – 10/06: Pediatric Psychologist**

Children's Hospital Orange County – UCI Child Development Center  
Early Identification and Treatment of ADHD in Preschoolers  
Director: James Swanson, Ph.D.

Served as the primary clinical psychologist on a joint CHOC-UCI project for early identification of ADHD in preschool-age children.

**4/02 - 9/02: Research Associate**

Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
Principle Investigator: Ernest Katz, Ph.D.

Multi-site Children's Hospital study of remediation of attention deficits of children with cancer.

**9/00 – 4/02 Postdoctoral Fellow**

Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Two-year post-doctoral fellowship. Specialty focus: ADHD; spina bifida; early childhood mental health

**9/99 - 9/00 Predoctoral Psychology Intern – APA Accredited**

Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Rotations: spina bifida, early childhood preschool consultation

**9/98 - 9/99 Research Associate**

UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute  
Principle Investigator: Elisabeth Dykens, Ph.D.

Area: Cognitive functioning in Williams Syndrome. Test administration and coding of behavioral observation data

**9/85 - 9/98 Research Associate**

UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute  
Principle Investigator: Keith Nuechterlein, Ph.D.

Area: Longitudinal study of initial-onset schizophrenia. Received annual training to research and clinical reliability in the rating of psychotic symptoms using the Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS). Managed all aspects of data collection and data processing.

**9/80 – 9/85 Psychiatric Aide**

Southern California psychiatric hospitals.

**3/74 – 6/78 Crisis Counselor**

Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Center

Crisis telephone counselor and supervisor for Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Hotline.

## **Divorce Training**

Certificate Program: Certification in Divorce Mediation. Conflict Resolution Training, Inc. 2/24/16 – 2/27/16. Susan Deveney, Instructor

## **Early Childhood Training:**

Certificate Program: Parent-Infant Mental Health: Fielding Graduate University, 1/14/08; 1/15/08.

Early Childhood Diagnostic System: *DC:0-3R Diagnostic Criteria*: Orange County Early Childhood Mental Health Collaborative.

Early Childhood Diagnostic System: *DMIC: Diagnostic Manual for Infancy and Early Childhood*. Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders: assessment, diagnosis, and intervention for developmental and emotional disorders, autistic spectrum disorders, multisystem developmental disorders, regulatory disorders involving attention, learning and behavioral problems, cognitive, language, motor, and sensory disturbances.

Early Childhood Treatment Intervention: *Watch, Wait, and Wonder*: Nancy Cohen, Ph.D. Hincks-Dellcrest Centre & the University of Toronto.

Early Childhood Treatment Intervention: *Circle of Security*: Glen Cooper, MFT, Center for Clinical Intervention, Marycliff Institute, Spokane, Washington.

## **Recent Seminars Taken**

The Advanced Master Program on the Treatment of Trauma. National Institute for the Clinical Application of Behavioral Medicine – 12-hour online course.

Complex Trauma: Bessel van der Kolk. How the Body Keeps Score: Intensive Trauma Treatment Course – 12-hour PESI seminar, online.

Dialectic Behavior Therapy (DBT): Dialectic Behavior Therapy Intensive Training; 12-hour PESI seminar, online.

Emotion Focused Therapy (EFT): Sue Johnson. Intensive Course in Emotionally Focused Therapy: Attachment-Based Interventions for Couples in Crisis; 12-hour PESI seminar, online

The Bowen Center: Emotional Cutoff: The Bowen Center for Study of the Family: 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Family Theory and Family Psychotherapy. Dr Plimer “*Family Rifts and How to Mend Them: Findings from the Cornell Estrangement and Reconciliation Project*” – three-day symposium, Johns Hopkins University, MD; 11-7/19 – 11-9-19.

## **Book Publications:**

Childress, C.A. (2018). *The Petition to the American Psychological Association*. Claremont, CA: The Childress Institute.

Childress, C.A. (2017). *Assessment of Attachment-Related Pathology Surrounding Divorce*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.

Childress, C.A. (2017). *Strategic Family Systems Intervention for AB-PA: Contingent Visitation Schedule*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.

- Childress, C.A. (2017). *The Key to Solving High-Conflict Divorce in the Family Courts: Proposal for a Pilot Program in the Family Law Courts*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.
- Childress, C.A. (2016). *The Narcissistic Parent: A Guidebook for Legal Professionals Working with Families in High-Conflict Divorce*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.
- Childress, C.A. (2015). *An Attachment-Based Model of Parental Alienation: Foundations*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.
- Childress, C.A. (2015). *An Attachment-Based Model of Parental Alienation: Single Case ABAB Assessment and Remedy*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.
- Childress, C.A. (2015). *An Attachment-Based Model of Parental Alienation: Professional Consultation*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.
- Childress, C.A. (2015). *Essays in Attachment-Based Parental Alienation: The Internet Writings of Dr. Childress*. Claremont, CA: Oaksong Press.

### **Journal Publications**

- Tamm, T., Swanson, J. Lerner, M.A., **Childress, C.** Patterson, B, Lakes, K., Nguyen, A.S., Kudo, M., Altamirano, W., Miller, J., Santoyo, R., Camarero-Morse, V., Watkins, J., Simpson, S., Waffarn, F., Cunningham, C. (2005). Intervention for preschoolers at risk for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): Service before diagnosis. *Clinical Neuroscience Research*, 5 (5-6) 247-253.
- Childress C.A. (2000) *Ethical issues in providing online psychotherapeutic interventions*. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 2(1):e5.
- Childress, C.A. (1999). *Interactive e-mail journals: A model for providing psychotherapeutic interventions using the Internet*, *Cyberpsychology and Behavior*, 2(3), 213-221
- Childress, C.A., & Asamen, J.K. (1998). *The emerging relationship of psychology and the Internet: Proposed guidelines for conducting Internet intervention research*. *Ethics and Behavior*, 8, 19-35.

### **“Parental Alienation” Seminars and Presentations Given:**

- Erasmus University Medical Center. Attachment-Based Parental Alienation: Trauma Informed Assessment of Complex Family Conflict. Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2/25/19.
- Law Society of Saskatchewan. Solutions for the Family Court and Professional Psychology; Saskatoon 11/20/18; Regina 11/21/18.
- Certification Seminars for the Houston Pilot Program for the Family Courts. Attachment-Based Parental Alienation (AB-PA) May 22-24, 2018; Houston, Texas.
- California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (CALPCC). Parental Alienation Testing, Orders, and Treatment in BPD/NPD Custody Proceedings. April 20, 2018; San Francisco, CA.
- Certification in Attachment-Based Parental Alienation (AB-PA). Provided Basic and Advanced Certification Seminars in AB-PA. November 18-20. Westin Hotel Pasadena, CA.

- Legislature Briefing. Pennsylvania State Legislature; House Children and Youth Committee. Solutions to High-Conflict Divorce in the Family Court. November 15, 2017; Harrisburg, PA (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ala1KbfsWIM>)
- Legislature Briefing. Massachusetts State Legislature. Grandparent and Family Alienation. Hosted by Representative Walsh. 5/31/17. Boston MA.
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Convention. An Attachment-Based Model of Parental Alienation: Diagnosis and Treatment. June 1, 2017. Boston, MA.
- Keynote Address. Parental Alienation Symposium 2017: Solutions for Professionals and Families. 4/29/17; Dallas, Texas.
- Master Lecture Series; California Southern University. *Treatment of Attachment-Based Parental Alienation*. November 21, 2014; Irvine, CA. (available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZBJ3954mKw>)
- Master Lecture Series; California Southern University. *Theoretical Foundations of Attachment-Based Model of "Parental Alienation."* July 18, 2014; Irvine, CA. (available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brNuwQNN3q4>)
- Family Law Reform Conference. Invited Panelist: *Parental Alienation and Domestic Violence*. Hosted by DivorceCorp. November 15-16, 2014; Alexandria, VA.

### **Professional Association Presentations: Parenting**

- Herrejon, E., Feeney-Kettler, K., Kettler, R., **Childress**, C., Kamptner, L., Lakes, K. (2007). *Multi-tiered Early Childhood Model of Service Delivery*. American Psychological Association Convention presentation.
- Marche Haynes, M., Lakes, K., **Childress**, C., Kamptner, L., Lilles, E. (2006). *Do SES, Race/Ethnicity, and Acculturation Predict Parenting Intervention Completion?* Western Psychological Association Convention Presentation.
- Grimes, L., Lakes, K., **Childress**, C., Kamptner, K., Simmons, S. (2006) *Impact of SES and Culture on Parenting Intervention Outcomes*. Western Psychological Association Convention Presentation.
- Kramer, L., Lakes, K., **Childress**, C., Kamptner, L., Grimes, L. (2006) *Parent Behaviors and Corresponding Child Prosocial Behaviors and Conduct Problems*. Western Psychological Association Convention Presentation.
- Lilles, E., Lakes, K., **Childress**, C., Kamptner, L., and Kramer, L. (2006). *Does SES or Ethnicity Predict Parent Use of Physical Punishment?* Western Psychological Association Convention Presentation.

### **Early Childhood Mental Health Seminars and Trainings Given:**

- Early Childhood Intervention with "Behavior Problems" in the Preschool Classroom. San Bernardino Head Start Preschool Teacher Training Series (10/27/06; 11/3/06; 11/17/06).

- Early Childhood Intervention with “Behavior Problems” in the Preschool Classroom. San Bernardino West End SELPA Preschool Teacher Training Series (10/17/06; 11/7/06; 12/5/06).
- Early Childhood Intervention with “Behavior Problems” in the Preschool Classroom. San Bernardino West End SELPA Preschool Teacher Training Series (10/31/06; 11/14/06; 12/12/06).
- Early Childhood Intervention with “Behavior Problems” in the Preschool Classroom (5/5/06). Victorville Head Start. Victorville, CA
- Early Childhood Intervention with “Behavior Problems” in the Preschool Classroom. (11/12/04). National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Anaheim, CA
- Functional Behavioral Analysis and Positive Child Guidance with Preschoolers. (5/1/04). Westminster School District. Westminster, CA.
- Functional Behavioral Analysis with Preschool-Age Children - Seminar Series. (3/5/04; 4/2/04). Placentia Yorba Linda School District; School Readiness Coordinators. Yorba Linda, CA
- Functional Behavioral Analysis with Preschool-Age Children - Seminar Series. (2/6/04; 2/13/04; 2/20/04). Irvine Unified School District. Irvine, CA.
- Functional Behavioral Analysis and Positive Behavior Management with Children. (12/3/03). Orangewood Preschool, Irvine, CA
- Early Childhood Working with “Problem Behavior” in the Preschool Classroom (10/31/03). Orange County Head Start; Teachers & Teacher Aides. Bren Events Center, University of California; Irvine, CA.
- Functional Behavioral Analysis and Positive Child Guidance with Preschool-Age Children. (10/17/03). Irvine Unified School District. Irvine, CA.
- Functional Behavioral Analysis with Preschool-Age Children - Seminar Series. (9/26/03; 10/17/03). Orange County Head Start Center Directors and Multi-disciplinary Teams. Orange, CA.

### **Internet Psychology Seminars and Presentations Given**

- **World Health Organization**, 2nd International Symposium on Psychiatry and Internet: Information – Support – Therapy. Invited presentation on *Ethical Issues in Online Psychotherapeutic Interventions*. 4/2002, Munich, Germany.
- **American Association for the Advancement of Science** and the Office of Protection from Research Risks, Conference on the Ethical and Legal Aspects of Human Subjects Research in Cyberspace. Invited paper presentation on *Privacy and Confidentiality Issues in Internet Research*. 6/1999, June. Washington, D.C.
- **American Psychological Association** Convention, Symposium on Using the Internet for Change: Online Psychotherapy and Education. J. Grohol (Chair): *The Potential Risks and Benefits of Online Therapeutic Interventions*. 8/1998; San Francisco, California.

## Appendix 2: California SB-331 and Alternative Judicial Curriculum Proposal

C.A. Childress (2023)

SB-331 Proposed Judicial Curriculum	Recommended Balanced Judicial Curriculum
<b>Child Abuse</b>	
(A) Child sexual abuse (B) Physical abuse. (C) Emotional abuse.	(A) Child Physical Abuse (V995.54) (B) Child Sexual Abuse (V995.53) (C) Child Neglect (V995.52) (D) Child Psychological Abuse (V995.51)
<b>Psychological Control</b>	
(D) Coercive control.	(E) Psychological Control
<p><b>From Barber &amp; Harmon:</b> “Psychological control refers to parental behaviors that are intrusive and manipulative of children’s thoughts, feelings, and attachment to parents. These behaviors appear to be associated with disturbances in the psychoemotional boundaries between the child and parent, and hence with the development of an independent sense of self and identity.” (Barber &amp; Harmon, 2002, p. 15)<sup>9</sup></p> <p><b>From Cui et al:</b> “Specifically, psychological control has historically been defined as psychologically and emotionally manipulative techniques or parental behaviors that are not responsive to children’s psychological and emotional needs (Barber, Maughan, &amp; Olsen, 2005). Psychologically controlling parents create a coercive, unpredictable, or negative emotional climate in the family, which serves as one of the ways the family context influences children’s emotion regulation (Morris, Silk, Steinberg, Myers, &amp; Robinson, 2007; Steinberg, 2005).”<sup>10</sup></p>	
<b>Potential Bias</b>	
(E) Implicit and explicit bias, including biases relating to parents with disabilities.	(F) Implicit and explicit bias, including bias associated with culture, gender, religion, sexual orientation and identify, and parents with disabilities.

<sup>9</sup> Barber, B. K. and Harmon, E. L. (2002). Violating the self: Parenting psychological control of children and adolescents. In B. K. Barber (Ed.), *Intrusive parenting* (pp. 15-52). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

<sup>10</sup> Cui, L., Morris, A.S., Criss, M.M., Houlberg, B.J., and Jennifer S. Silk, J.S. (2014). Parental Psychological Control and Adolescent Adjustment: The Role of Adolescent Emotion Regulation. *Parenting: Science and Practice*, 14, 47–67.



<b>Trauma</b>	
(F) Trauma.	(G) The difference between trauma and complex trauma, including the trans-generational transmission of trauma.
<b>Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)</b>	
(G) Long- and short-term impacts of domestic violence and child abuse on children.	(H) Identifying authentic IPV versus false allegations of IPV designed to manipulate the court's decisions. Association of IPV to child abuse concerns following divorce.
<b>IPV Cycle of Violence</b>	
(H) Victim and perpetrator behavioral patterns and relationship dynamics within the cycle of violence.	(I) Victim and perpetrator behavioral patterns and relationship dynamics within the cycle of violence, and spousal psychological abuse using children as weapons (DSM-5 V995.82 Spouse or Partner Abuse, Psychological).
<b>Narcissistic-Borderline-Dark Personality Pathology</b>	
none	Symptom patterns of narcissistic, borderline, and dark personality parents, including child and spousal abuse risks, the potential development of persecutory delusions, and the creation of false pathology in the child to manipulate the court's decisions for secondary gain.
<b>Family Systems Constructs</b>	
none	The features of family systems and family conflict, including triangulation, cross-generational coalitions, emotional cutoffs, inverted hierarchies, and enmeshment.
<b>Attachment &amp; Attachment Pathology</b>	
none	Description of the attachment system in children and symptom features of attachment pathology, including child development research regarding the breach-and-repair sequence and the resolution of attachment pathology.

Appendix 3: Belgrade Presentation 4/27/23 & 4/28/23  
 Example California Pilot Program Proposal for the Family Courts

Principle Investigator: Stanford Forensic Psychiatry  
 Satellite So Cal Site: UCLA – Pepperdine – Alliant

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Diagnostic Assessment Protocol Development

- Lead site: Stanford – UCLA

Treatment Protocol Development

- Pepperdine – Alliant universities
- Teams from: DBT (Linehan), EFT (Johnson & Tronick), IFS (Schwartz)

Court-involved Custody Conflict  
 Recommended Treatment Protocol Integration

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**Dialectic Behavior Therapy (DBT):**  
 Linehan, University of Washington

Personality disorder pathology & child abuse

**Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT):**  
 Johnson & Tronick, ICEEFT

Attachment pathology – breach-and-repair

**Internal Family Systems therapy (IFS):**  
 Schwartz, IFS Institute

Family systems; integration of self-authenticity

Dr. Childress Consultation Expertise:

- Court-involved child custody conflict  
 Ten years in the family court – books, presentations
- Child abuse & complex trauma  
 Clinical Director – treatment for children in foster care
- Attachment pathology  
 Early Childhood Mental Health – breach-and-repair
- Diagnostic assessment of delusional thought disorders  
 12 year of training at UCLA schizophrenia project – BPRS
- Assessment Protocol Development  
 DOJ-FEMA project for assessment of juvenile firesetting
- Family systems therapy  
 Bowenian – Structural – Strategic – Humanistic - Internal

Relevant Research – Dark Personalities

Ok, E., Qian, Y., Strejcek, B., & Aquino, K. (2021). Signaling virtuous victimhood as indicators of Dark Triad personalities. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 120(6), 1634–1661. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspp0000329>

Clemente M, Padilla-Racero D, Espinosa P. (2020). The Dark Triad and the Detection of Parental Judicial Manipulators. Development of a Judicial Manipulation Scale. *International Journal of Environmental Research in Public Health*. 2020. doi: 10.3390/ijerph17082843. PMID: 32326146; PMCID: PMC7216058.

Greenham, M.L & Childress, C.A. (2022). Dark Personalities and Induced Delusional Disorder, Part II: The Research Gap Underlying a Crisis in the Family and Domestic Violence Courts. *ResearchGate*. DOI:[10.13140/RG.2.2.16477.90084/2](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.16477.90084/2)