

## Risk Assessment in the Family Courts

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The only cause of severe attachment pathology (i.e., a child rejecting a parent) is child abuse by one parent or the other:

- **Targeted Parent Abusive:** Either the targeted parent is abusing the child, thereby creating the child's attachment pathology toward that parent,
- **Allied Parent Abusive:** Or the allied parent is psychologically abusing the child by creating a shared (induced) persecutory delusion and false (factitious) attachment pathology in the child for secondary gain to the pathological narcissistic-borderline-dark personality parent of manipulating the court's decisions regarding child custody, and to meet the pathological parent's own emotional and psychological needs.

### Risk Assessment

There are three dangerous pathologies, suicide, homicide, and abuse (child, spousal, & elder abuse). Whenever a mental health professional encounters a dangerous pathology (suicide, homicide, abuse) duty to protect obligations are activated and a proper risk assessment needs to be conducted to the danger involved.

In all cases of court-involved custody conflict involving severe attachment pathology displayed by the child (i.e., a child rejecting a parent), a proper risk assessment for possible child abuse needs to be conducted to the appropriate differential diagnosis for each parent.

### Ethical Obligations for Competence

All mental health professionals are required to practice ONLY within the boundaries of their competence based on their education, training, and experience. No forensic psychologists are competent in the diagnostic assessment of delusional thought disorders or with the diagnostic assessment and treatment of attachment pathology. Forensic psychologists in the family courts are in continual violation of multiple ethical Standards of practice for the American Psychological Association:

- Standard 2.01 Boundaries of Competence
- Standard 2.04 Bases for Scientific and Professional Judgments
- Standard 9.01 Bases for Assessment

The licensing boards are failing to enforce ethical Standards in the family courts because the forensic psychologists on the licensing boards are allowed to self-review and they all do exactly the same thing. The forensic psychologists on the licensing boards are covering up for the unethical and incompetent services being delivered by themselves and other forensic psychologists who they review.

There needs to be outside and independent review of the policy and procedures of the licensing boards with respect to forensic custody evaluations in the family courts.