

Professional Competence

Childress & Pruter (2017)

Domains of Professional Competence

The attachment-related pathology traditionally called "parental alienation" represents a complex inter-play of four domains of pathology:

- Attachment-related pathology;
- Family systems pathology;
- Personality disorder pathology;
- Complex trauma.

Childress & Pruter (2017)

Attachment System Competence

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.

Childress & Pruter (2017)

Personality Disorder Competence

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 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.

Childress & Pruter (2017)

Family Systems Competence

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.

Childress & Pruter (2017)

Complex Trauma Competence

Mental health professionals who are assessing, diagnosing, and treating the **trans-generational transmission** of **complex trauma**:

- Need to be professionally knowledgeable and competent in nature of **complex trauma**, as expressed both individually and through family relationships.
- Failure to possess professional-level knowledge regarding the 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.

Childress & Pruter (2017)

Professional Ignorance & Incompetence

Mental health professionals are currently assessing, diagnosing, and treating:

- An **attachment-related** pathology without expertise in the attachment system;
- A **family systems** pathology without expertise in family systems;
- **Personality disorder** pathology without expertise in personality disorder pathology.

Childress & Pruter (2017)