## Reunification Is Not the Problem. Poor Judgement and Understanding are.

When a bad judge ignores evidence of true abuse convictions, this is not a failure of reunification therapy. This is a failure of the court system to have oversight on family court judges. This does not mean that reunification therapy should be banned. Quite the reverse. What it does mean is that proper education is necessary for professionals to understand if they are looking at a true case of alienation and if so at what level. It also means that judges, who are trained and supposedly know about parental alienation, need to be held accountable for violating due process violations under the 5th and 14th Amendments when they ignore solid verifiable evidence and scientific empirical data. If a parent was truly convicted of abuse or found to be an unfit parent, this is NOT alienation. And if a judge decides to ignore this evidence, this has nothing to do with reunification therapy. And everything to do with a corrupt or dysfunctional family court judge or system. In fact, as this is not a case of alienation, the treatment protocol is much different than if there was no conviction.

Parental alienation is custodial interference. Custodial interference is a felony criminal act. Thus, making parental alienation illegal. Therapy for custodial interference is the same as parental alienation, so you cannot ban treatments that have a preponderance of success with a rate of 96% and whose methods have been used for decades in custodial interference and cult-like brainwashing cases.

Furthermore, a single case or two of judicial impropriety does not mean you get rid of the process. You fix the cause of the failed process, which could be things like getting proper education or holding judges accountable for ignoring evidence. Reunification therapy has nothing to do with lousy poor judges violating parents due process rights.

The opposition needs to stop trying to get rid of reunification therapy, which is helping all the other families. Stop blaming the science or Parental alienation and claiming it is only used by abusive men. Let's try putting the blame where it belongs. With the judge who maybe poorly trained or who ignored the criminal conviction for abuse or finding of a parent being unfit as the cause of that family's problems. A diagnosis of parental alienation is not appropriate were a conviction for abuse or being an unfit parent exists.

Joan Kloth-Zanard, MFT, ADA, RSS, ABI, GAL, MDCF LC