

## Grandparent Alienation is a Human Tragedy

Our grandchildren do not deserve this. It is not their fault.

"I can think of few examples in the field of family problems in which one category of persons is free to inflict misery on another effortlessly and without social sanction." Marilyn Daniels, PhD

Too many grandparents are walking around our community needing help to cope with grandparent alienation issues. Too many parents deny access or severely limit access to the grandchildren. This occurs even when a meaningful relationship between the grandparent and grandchild has already been formed. It is like being amputated from their grandchildren. There is no socio-economic group unprotected from such devastation. These children are being withheld with little or no provocation.

This is a very serious problem of the Baby Boom generation with which we need to deal. How many thousands of grandchildren are entangled in inter-family disputes? Our organization brings awareness to this issue which faces our grandchildren, and is tormenting our grandparents.

If death takes a grandparent from and grandchild that is a tragedy. But, if family bickering and vindictiveness deny a child the love of a grandparent, that's a shame.

The dynamics of a family can be torn apart by selfish choices made by adult children. This can cause a separation in the family that separate grandchildren from grandparents. It is a damage that can take years to repair, and sometimes never gets repaired. Grandparents are an intricate part of raising and loving unconditionally our young ones, and preparing them for society. They can perform as outstanding role models, especially if there is chaos in their home. Unhealthy minds in a family create chaos. Healthy minds want to fix things, unhealthy minds do not.

Grandparents provide a balance in grandchildren's lives that no one else can replicate. Studies have shown that multi-generational contact between children and their grandparents provides a special unconditional love and nurturing which is healthy for children. The quality of attachment is very strong, and contributes to our grandchildren's sense of self.

### Preserve the Grandparent Grandchild Bond

Grandparents love their grandchildren unconditionally. The grandchildren know this.

They know you are there because you want to be there.

Our adult children can sever this relationship. The parents decide. The child is in the middle.

Alienation is about power and control. It begins with the undermining daughter-in-law, daughter, son-in-law, or son.

Grandparents are made to feel uncomfortable when they attempt to visit. With-holders make the visiting difficult or embarrassing for the grandparents.

The deliberate misunderstandings about timing of the grandparents' visits are common. During visits, the parents are often exert some kind of negative pressure on the situation, making the children feel strange about being friendly toward their grandparents.

So many grandchildren are not allowed to reveal their true feelings about their grandparents to their parents. They are forced to go emotionally underground.

There can be situations of enablers, pathological liars, raging, jealousy, and the expectations of entitlements of the "me" generation.

Grandparents are forced to put up with the abusive behaviors of our daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters, or sons. If it were not for the deep love they have for their children and grandchildren, they would otherwise walk away. Instead grandparents are walking on eggshells.