

PE1790/B

Petitioner submission of 26 February 2020

I have been gathering vital information and evidence for the committee's attention. I have requested information from all 32 Local Authority Councils in Scotland and Police Scotland regarding identifying coached or psychologically coerced children.

Below is the actual request sent to all LAC's.

Per the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, please supply me with all information contained in your records:

Please advise your policy, procedures and training programme for Social Work staff dealing with and identifying 'Coached or psychologically coerced children?'

Please provide your policy and procedures which explains types and examples of diagnostic criteria and/or indicators & signs of a child being coached and/or psychologically coerced?

Please advise your policy and procedures that explains appropriate methods of working with including but not limited to consideration and intervention of a child who may present as being subject to having been coached by psychological coercive control that is given when working with coached and/psychologically coerced children?"

I have not been surprised by the responses from each LAC as none are trained in this area, and would be unable to identify a coached or psychologically coerced child, therefore how many children have been put in the care of their abuser?

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/user/ms_s_kerr_2/requests

As the SPICe briefing mentions the subject matter being raised 18 years ago, that is 18 years' worth of children who may have been failed by this Government.

There must be provision put into the Children Scotland Bill to acknowledge, recognise and fully protect children from psychological coercive control which is intrinsically linked to Domestic Abuse and Domestic Violence.

This kind of psychological coercive control can be perpetrated very subtly over many years not only by a parent but a member or members of the family or indeed anyone who spends significant time with a child, which can result in devastating effects to the life long mental health of the child, notwithstanding the effects on the targeted parent.

I would also like to submit evidences from Eire on legislating for Parental Alienation.

The work of Alienated Parents throughout Ireland to ensure that motions calling on the Irish Government to recognise and address Parental Alienation has been a Fantastic Success.

Councillors from all Political Parties have voted unanimously to achieve this having been informed by the Alienated Parents working together shoulder to shoulder to address the "hidden" insight Abuse of Parental Alienation. This brings to 13 the total number of County Councils in Southern Ireland (and one in the North) who are supporting the changes required to address Parental Alienation in Ireland.

Alienated Parents hope to achieve a success rate of between 90-100% of Councils in Ireland and La Dolce Vita Project in Northern Ireland have similar hopes of success.

Another fantastic achievement is that between all the educational work of the Motion, the Petition, Media and by directly lobbying Politicians Alienated Parents have helped and influenced a major Irish Political Party to draft inclusion of Parental Alienation in their Policies.

'Supports the right of a child to know and have a strong bond with both their parents and we support measures that will support and give effect to this right.

We recognise that, in some situations, parental alienation can occur and this is in breach of the rights of the child.

All relevant agencies must be supported in recognising and addressing parental alienation in order to protect the best interests of the child.

We believe in general that the custody of the child should be joint, unless there are particular circumstances that mean this would not be in the best interests of the child.'

This is a real first and is also fantastic news too!

La Dolce Vita Project in association with Parental Alienation Europe will be hosting "Parental Alienation United As One Conferences",

Both conferences are suitable for those working or who are involved with those impacted by domestic abuse, violence, sexual violence, family conflict and parental alienation.

Learning outcomes will include:

Understanding and knowledge of the prevalence of parental alienation across the world from expert speakers and worldwide research.

Understanding and knowledge of the impact of parental alienation on children and why it is emotional and psychological abuse.

Understanding and knowledge of links with parental alienation to coercive control and domestic abuse.

Understanding and knowledge of the "5 Factor Model, 8 manifesting symptoms in a child, and the 17 strategies used by alienating parents".

Understanding and knowledge of Irish Case Law recognising Parental Alienation.

Understanding and knowledge of child custody management strategies for assessing parental alienation.

Understanding and knowledge of legal implications and potential resolutions.

Both conferences will give you the opportunity to network and to come together to support, promote and protect the rights and best interests of children, throughout Ireland from the harm caused by parental alienation.

Parental Alienation is real and neglecting to legislate for suitable checks and balances in social policy that are inclusive and fully recognise the significant harm being allowed by non-recognition of this abhorrent form of child abuse is unacceptable in a progressive government's Children's Scotland Bill.