

Alex Ionescu

February 7, 2018

My name is Alex Ionescu and I am a 20-year-old student at Colgate University. Unfortunately, for the majority of my life I was embroiled in a divorce where I was continuously ignored and disregarded by a family court system who I thought was supposed to protect me. Instead, I was subjected to an utterly cruel and senseless experiment which was not based in fact or reality but instead on the so-called psychological theory, parental alienation syndrome (PAS).

Once I became aware of my parents' impending divorce, I was old enough to realize that I would be asked by the judge handling our case if I had any preference over who I wished to live with. I wanted to live with my father and I stated as much to the presiding judge, Judge Issenman. Furthermore, I had very powerful reasons as to why I wished to live with him and I made sure I explicitly outlined those reasons to him. Simply put, I had a significantly warmer and stronger relationship with my father. My relationship with my mother deteriorated rapidly through no fault but her own. While I understood that my mom had a strict parenting style, she began exhibit very frightening and borderline abusive behaviors towards my sister and me that cemented my desire to live with my father. There was the time she became angry at my sister for being on her phone in bed and choked her while trying to remove it from her possession. Or the time that she withheld food and water from me for an entire day just to get me to sign a form for a school I did not wish to attend. Or the time she knifed a football of mine to shreds, for no apparent reason, while I was playing catch with my father. These incidents continued to pile on and these frightening moments were compounded by mother's constant angry outbursts and her hostile behavior towards us and, increasingly, my father as well. I made my wishes clear to the judge. I wanted to live with my father and I begged the judge to make it happen.

Unfortunately, the judge did not listen to me or my sister and disregarded everything we had described on the horrifically misguided belief that our father had "alienated" us and that we were suffering from "parental alienation syndrome." He proceeded to sentence me and my sister to the worst three year period of my life. On December 27, 2011, Judge Issenman shockingly issued the order for me, my sister, and my mom to attend Family Bridges and granted sole custody to my mother. We were escorted to the airport by two people who made it very clear to us that we would be getting on the plane to San Francisco, willingly or unwillingly. They intimated to us that they had the legal right to physically restrain us and carry us on the plane if we did not cooperate. This shook me to my core yet it was only the beginning of my nightmare. Once we arrived at Family Bridges, Richard Warshak, Randy Rand, and Deirdre Rand continuously fed us misleading videos, fake demonstrations, and other materials in an attempt to brain wash us that our father was the one who caused my relationship with my mother to deteriorate. We met their lies and misinformation with undeniable facts about our relationship with our mother and how and why it got to where it was at the time. After a few days of resistance, we were informed that unless we "cooperated" and essentially succumbed to their lies, we would not be allowed to leave. We were further threatened with the alleged revelation that our father would incur significant financial penalties if we did not cooperate. My sister and I realized then there was only one possible course of action: we needed to get out and if we had to lie and fake understanding, so be it. And we did exactly that. Let me state unequivocally: there is no such thing as parental alienation syndrome. My relationship with my mother worsened as a result of her actions and behavior towards me and this fictitious theory was used as means to shift blame away from her and the true root of the problems we had.

While we were ultimately able to fake our way through and escape a bullshit program built entirely off of lies, we were not able to escape the family court system. Following Judge Issenman's decision to award physical custody to my mother, I was not able to see, visit or communicate with my father for nearly THREE YEARS. Not three days. Not three weeks. Not three months. Nearly three years. One thousand eighty four days passed between Judge Issenman's ruling and my father's successful appeal. To this day I cannot fathom how not one, but multiple justices, permitted this gross injustice to continue day after day after day. I cannot properly articulate the emotional suffering and despair I went through every single day I was withheld from seeing my father, knowing that we did nothing wrong, knowing that he did nothing wrong and yet being hopelessly unable to change anything.

I hope that my statement today helps shed some much needed light on the severe damage that "reunification programs" cause to children across the United States. I know I am not the only victim of this horrific deception and I can only hope that a swift and just end to these awful programs will soon follow. I truly hope that the term "parental alienation syndrome" never finds its way into a family court again. The irreparable harm it has caused me and my sister should never be inflicted upon any child nor any parent. I used to hold the justice system in the highest regard and believed that it was built on principles of fairness and honesty. While I continue to trust in some aspects of the judicial system, that is absolutely not the case in the family court system. It is clear to me that the family courts have renounced fairness and honesty at the behest of corruption and greed.

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Once I became aware of my parents' impending divorce, I was old enough to realize that I would be asked by the judge handling our case if I had any preference over who I wished to live with. I wanted to live with my father and I stated as much to the presiding judge, Judge Issenman. Furthermore, I had very powerful reasons as to why I wished to live with him and I made sure I explicitly outlined those reasons to him. Simply put, I had a significantly warmer and stronger relationship with my father. My relationship with my mother deteriorated rapidly through no fault but her own. While I understood that my mom had a strict parenting style, she began exhibit very frightening and borderline abusive behaviors towards my sister and me that cemented my desire to live with my father. There was the time she became angry at my sister for being on her phone in bed and choked her while trying to remove it from her possession. Or the time that she withheld food and water from me for an entire day just to get me to sign a form for a school I did not wish to attend. Or the time she knifed a football of mine to shreds, for no apparent reason, while I was playing catch with my father. These incidents continued to pile on and these frightening moments were compounded by mother's constant angry outbursts and her hostile behavior towards us and, increasingly, my father as well. I made my wishes clear to the judge. I wanted to live with my father and I begged the judge to make it happen.

Unfortunately, the judge did not listen to me or my sister and disregarded everything we had described on the horrifically misguided belief that our father had "alienated" us and that we were suffering from "parental alienation syndrome." He proceeded to sentence me and my sister to the worst three year period of my life. On December 27, 2011, Judge Issenman shockingly issued the order for me, my sister, and my mom to attend Family Bridges and granted sole custody to my mother. We were escorted to the airport by two people who made it very clear to us that we would be getting on the plane to San Francisco, willingly or unwillingly. They intimated to us that they had the legal right to physically restrain us and carry us on the plane if we did not cooperate. This shook me to my core yet it was only the beginning of my nightmare. Once we arrived at Family Bridges, Richard Warshak, Randy Rand, and Deirdre Rand continuously fed us misleading videos, fake demonstrations, and other materials in an attempt to brain wash us that our father was the one who caused my relationship with my mother to deteriorate. We met their lies and misinformation with undeniable facts about our relationship with our mother and how and why it got to where it was at the time. After a few days of resistance, we were informed that unless we "cooperated" and essentially succumbed to their lies, we would not be allowed to leave. We were further threatened with the alleged revelation that our father would incur significant financial penalties if we did not cooperate. My sister and I realized then there was only one possible course of action: we needed to get out and if we had to lie and fake understanding, so be it. And we did exactly that. Let me state unequivocally: there is no such thing as parental alienation syndrome. My relationship with my mother worsened as a result of her actions and behavior towards me and this fictitious theory was used as means to shift blame away from her and the true root of the problems we had.

While we were ultimately able to fake our way through and escape a bullshit program built entirely off of lies, we were not able to escape the family court system. Following Judge Issenman's decision to award physical custody to my mother, I was not able to see, visit or communicate with my father for nearly THREE YEARS. Not three days. Not three weeks. Not three months. Nearly three years. One thousand eighty four days passed between Judge Issenman's ruling and my father's successful appeal. To this day I cannot fathom how not one, but multiple justices, permitted this gross injustice to continue day after day after day. I cannot properly articulate the emotional suffering and despair I went through every single day I was withheld from seeing my father, knowing that we did nothing wrong, knowing that he did nothing wrong and yet being hopelessly unable to change anything.

I hope that my statement today helps shed some much needed light on the severe damage that "reunification programs" cause to children across the United States. I know I am not the only victim of this horrific deception and I can only hope that a swift and just end to these awful programs will soon follow. I truly hope that the term "parental alienation syndrome" never finds its way into a family court again. The irreparable harm it has caused me and my sister should never be inflicted upon any child nor any parent. I used to hold the justice system in the highest regard and believed that it was built on principles of fairness and honesty. While I continue to trust in some aspects of the judicial system, that is absolutely not the case in the family court system. It is clear to me that the family courts have renounced fairness and honesty at the behest of corruption and greed.

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I hope that my statement today helps shed some much needed light on the severe damage that "reunification programs" cause to children across the United States. I know I am not the only victim of this horrific deception and I can only hope that a swift and just end to these awful programs will soon follow. I truly hope that the term "parental alienation syndrome" never finds its way into a family court again. The irreparable harm it has caused me and my sister should never be inflicted upon any child nor any parent. I used to hold the justice system in the highest regard and believed that it was built on principles of fairness and honesty. While I continue to trust in some aspects of the judicial system, that is absolutely not the case in the family court system. It is clear to me that the family courts have renounced fairness and honesty at the behest of corruption and greed.

Alex Ionescu

February 7, 2018

My name is Alex Ionescu and I am a 20-year-old student at Colgate University. Unfortunately, for the majority of my life I was embroiled in a divorce where I was continuously ignored and disregarded by a family court system who I thought was supposed to protect me. Instead, I was subjected to an utterly cruel and senseless experiment which was not based in fact or reality but instead on the so-called psychological theory, parental alienation syndrome (PAS).

Once I became aware of my parents' impending divorce, I was old enough to realize that I would be asked by the judge handling our case if I had any preference over who I wished to live with. I wanted to live with my father and I stated as much to the presiding judge, Judge Issenman. Furthermore, I had very powerful reasons as to why I wished to live with him and I made sure I explicitly outlined those reasons to him. Simply put, I had a significantly warmer and stronger relationship with my father. My relationship with my mother deteriorated rapidly through no fault but her own. While I understood that my mom had a strict parenting style, she began exhibit very frightening and borderline abusive behaviors towards my sister and me that cemented my desire to live with my father. There was the time she became angry at my sister for being on her phone in bed and choked her while trying to remove it from her possession. Or the time that she withheld food and water from me for an entire day just to get me to sign a form for a school I did not wish to attend. Or the time she knifed a football of mine to shreds, for no apparent reason, while I was playing catch with my father. These incidents continued to pile on and these frightening moments were compounded by mother's constant angry outbursts and her hostile behavior towards us and, increasingly, my father as well. I made my wishes clear to the judge. I wanted to live with my father and I begged the judge to make it happen.

Unfortunately, the judge did not listen to me or my sister and disregarded everything we had described on the horrifically misguided belief that our father had "alienated" us and that we were suffering from "parental alienation syndrome." He proceeded to sentence me and my sister to the worst three year period of my life. On December 27, 2011, Judge Issenman shockingly issued the order for me, my sister, and my mom to attend Family Bridges and granted sole custody to my mother. We were escorted to the airport by two people who made it very clear to us that we would be getting on the plane to San Francisco, willingly or unwillingly. They intimated to us that they had the legal right to physically restrain us and carry us on the plane if we did not cooperate. This shook me to my core yet it was only the beginning of my nightmare. Once we arrived at Family Bridges, Richard Warshak, Randy Rand, and Deirdre Rand continuously fed us misleading videos, fake demonstrations, and other materials in an attempt to brain wash us that our father was the one who caused my relationship with my mother to deteriorate. We met their lies and misinformation with undeniable facts about our relationship with our mother and how and why it got to where it was at the time. After a few days of resistance, we were informed that unless we "cooperated" and essentially succumbed to their lies, we would not be allowed to leave. We were further threatened with the alleged revelation that our father would incur significant financial penalties if we did not cooperate. My sister and I realized then there was only one possible course of action: we needed to get out and if we had to lie and fake understanding, so be it. And we did exactly that. Let me state unequivocally: there is no such thing as parental alienation syndrome. My relationship with my mother worsened as a result of her actions and behavior towards me and this fictitious theory was used as means to shift blame away from her and the true root of the problems we had.

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