

Proclamation

by Governor Joe Manchin III

- Whereas,** alienating behaviors are often found in high conflict divorce and custody situations; and,
- Whereas,** these behaviors, such as speaking negatively about a parent to or in front of a child, interfering with communication and visitation and discussing inappropriate information with a child, such as details of the marriage, court proceedings, or financial matters, can destroy the bond between a loving parent and child; and,
- Whereas,** parental alienation takes advantage of the suggestibility and dependency of children with the sole purpose of destroying a loving relationship they once shared with a parent; and,
- Whereas,** the most common symptom of children affected by parental alienation is their severe opposition to, or fear of, contact with one parent when there is no justifiable cause to explain the child's behavior; and,
- Whereas,** parental alienation deprives children of their right to love and be loved by both parents; and,
- Whereas,** parental alienation is considered a form of child abuse as the alienating tactics used on the children are confusing, frightening and rob children of their sense of security; and,
- Whereas,** professionals agree that the problem of parental alienation exists, is damaging to children and can affect them even throughout adulthood with tragic consequences; and,
- Whereas,** there are more than 2.4 million divorced North Americans, including the parents of more than one million children under the age of eighteen, with nearly as many unmarried couples with children separating; and,
- Whereas,** with awareness comes education and understanding, the power to stop the abuse of innocent children caught in the crossfire of the people they love;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **April 25, 2008**, as:

Parental Alienation Awareness Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.


Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Eight, and in the One Hundred Forty-fifth year of the State.





Joe Manchin III
Governor

By the Governor:



Betty Ireland
Secretary of State