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Characterization of the interdisciplinary nature of the concept of parental alienation as reflected by the professional journals

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ABSTRACT

The field of parental alienation, PA, now shows several criteria of a maturing science (Harman *et al.*, 2022). This is also manifested by the types of peer-review journals which publish articles about the concept. We have identified 166 such journals which clearly show the interdisciplinary character of the field.

The aim of this work is to give an overview of the corresponding journals which focus on areas such as psychology, developmental biology, medicine including psychiatry in the context of family dynamic. This is not meant to dismiss the importance of legal aspects – indeed we found 42 peer-review journals which have dealt with legal aspects of the PA concept. The legal process, however, is dependent on the first step which is recognition of PA as a biological and medical issue. Therefore, it is of interest to analyze to what extent the PA concept has entered the area of medicine and biology: The total number of journals from the areas of biology and medicine we found sums up to 104. The number of journals we found which clearly intersect between the medical sciences and law are 9. We found 14 journals which cover social work or sciences and have published articles on the PA concept, 6 of these journals in turn overlap with medical or legal issues.

In summary, we find PA standing on a solid scientific ground. We believe strongly that PA in most cases should be regarded as medical emergencies and therefore dealt with promptly whenever detected.

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