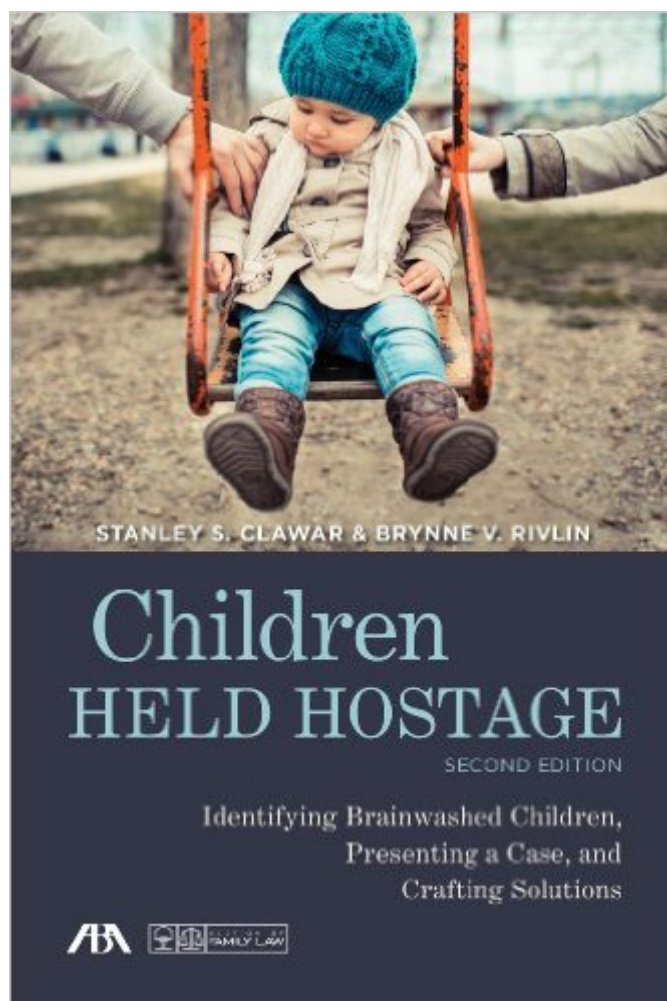


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# Children Held Hostage: Identifying Brainwashed Children, Presenting A Case, And Crafting Solutions



## Synopsis

In *Children Held Hostage*, Stanley Clawar and Brynne Rivlin use important new research involving over 1,000 families to demonstrate that children can and are being used by parents in the divorce battle. Their research shows how negative actions by parents toward their children show up in court proceedings where children testify or are questioned by mental health professionals. The major issue in confronting this problem of programmed and brainwashed children has been identification of a child alienated by one parent against the other; proving it in court; and then finding a solution that not only works, but that a court will buy into. The updated edition of *Children Held Hostage* explains these issues in detail, with practice-focused explanations on every step in the process. The authors offer further insights into gender issues and differences. Other new material includes a social-psychological profile of programmers and brainwashers; identification of the most commonly asked questions by judges, target parents, lawyers and children; an expanded social explanation to the causes, impact, and interventions; development of an abductor profile; charts to visualize key findings and processes; and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This review is a response to user Red Carnation's one-star review of this book from August 2013, which began its jump off the rails with the statement, "Children Held Hostage postures as an academic book. The first clue that it is not should be the publisher, The American Bar Association." Lawyer books are absurdly expensive by long and hallowed tradition, and this is undoubtedly a book for lawyers (and others involved in the court system as a function of their

job-roles). The first clue should be the publisher: the American Bar Association. The ABA is as respectable a publisher of legal-practice treatises as Guilford Press is of the kind of book Red Carnation might have been hoping for. This is an inherently anecdote-based study of a self-selecting sample that has to be heavily anonymized, because of the issues of confidentiality, legal privilege, etc. But, contrary to what one might infer from Red Carnation's review, it makes good use of the peer-reviewed literature (the references are footnoted, and the works-cited section can be found on pp. 475 - 507). As a study about what people bring before their lawyers, the courts, social workers, mental-health professionals and others whose work intersects with the family courts; and what those lawyers, courts, social workers, mental-health professionals, and others might infer is going on behind the scenes when they're trying to figure out what to ask; this study is first rate. Per the disclaimer in the first edition's (1991) colophon: "Information in this text is based upon actual cases. Names, places, and other identifying information, however, have been modified to prevent exact identification. Some scenarios are a blend of cases with similar characteristics."

This American Bar Association (ABA) "Section of Family Law" book is the "jewel in the crown" of the currently limited - but rapidly expanding - literature about parents who alienate a child or children against another parent. Both parents are, typically, the child's birth parents. On its publication date (1991), this book's insights were based on research involving (1) the largest group of research subjects (700), selected from a research pool of 1,000; and (2) the greatest length of research time (up to 12 years); of any research study ever conducted in this fledgling area. This authoritative research status, of research size and duration, probably continues to this day. When I first read **CHILDREN HELD HOSTAGE: DEALING WITH PROGRAMMED AND BRAINWASHED CHILDREN**, I did not know this book's subject is popularly known by the label - and short-hand term - "parental alienation syndrome," a term coined by Dr. Richard A. Garner. Dr. Garner, a child psychiatrist, who recognized this problem in his private practice, and became a prolific author in publicizing this "family" problem. Unfortunately, particularly for the psychological "best interests" of alienated children, the "syndrome" component of Dr. Garner's "parental alienation syndrome" label has become rallying point of certain feminist advocates, whose polemics attack application of "syndrome" to this child alienation problem, on the grounds that child alienation problems do not qualify as a medical "syndrome." This ridiculously specious argument attempts to totally deflect attention from - and to completely discredit - the nature and existence of this extremely disturbing child alienation problem, which is harmful not only to children, but also to "targeted" or "rejected" parents.

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