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# Children Held Hostage



## **Synopsis**

This is the first book to provide objective methods for establishing that a child has been brainwashed by one parent against another. It is based on a ten-year study of 700 cases in the authors' counseling and evaluative work with children of divorced couples.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: American Bar Association (June 3, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0897076281

ISBN-13: 978-0897076289

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.4 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,943,263 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Court Rules #218 in Books > Law > Family Law > Parental & Juvenile #358 in Books > Law > Family Law > Divorce & Separation

## **Customer Reviews**

Dr. Stanley S. Clawar is an Associate Professor at Rosemont College, an Adjunctive Staff Member of Northwestern Institute of Psychiatry (Fort Washington, PA), and Director of Walden Counseling and Therapy Center in Bryn Mawr, PA. He is a Certified Clinical Sociologist, Sex Therapist, Sex Educator, Family Mediator, and Hypnotherapist. Dr. Clawar is the author of dozens of popular and scholarly articles that have appeared in numerous journals. His most recent book is *You and Your Clients*, published by the General Practice Section of the American Bar Association. Dr. Clawar has been the recipient of many awards, including the National Endowment for the Humanities Award for College Teachers. He has served as Scholar-in-Residence for the United Jewish Appeal. He has appeared regularly on radio and television shows and gives lectures throughout the U.S. He has served as an educational and clinical consultant to hospitals and state agencies and has served as consultant to various industries. Dr. Clawar has served as an evaluator, witness, therapist, mediator, friend of the court, and consultant on approximately 1,000 cases involving domestic relations issues. Brynne Valerie Rivlin is a licensed clinical social worker practicing individual, child, and family therapy at Walden Counseling and Therapy Center in Bryn Mawr, PA. She has worked extensively over the past ten years within the areas of separation, divorce, single parenting,

reconciliation, and remarriage. Additionally, she has consulted on and performed over 1,000 custody evaluations and has provided testimony both in and out of state. She has been a Senior Family Conciliator for the Superior Court of Los Angeles. Ms. Rivlin has presented research for bar associations and professional organizations at seminars and workshops across the country on a variety of topics. She has appeared frequently on television talk shows, discussing various topics concerning the family, and has also authored popular and professional articles and tapes. Ms. Rivlin often provides book reviews for the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.

This was the first non biased realistic book on child custody. I used some of the information to help me decide how to move forward to resolve out situation. All the books say don't talk to your child about any of this. This book gave me the knowledge TO talk to my child in a productive way and slow the manipulations. A must have and worth whatever the cost!

Very complete and thorough description of the problem from the preceding elements to options for treatment. Since then I've had the opportunity of meeting Dr. Clawar. his insight in this problem and his thirst for finding new information is clearly demonstrated through the dedication it must've taken to create a text like this.

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. Some of the more extreme cases are already a part of a public record." Any cases involving brainwashing or programming of children should be treated carefully on an individual basis. The cases described in this book should not necessarily be used as models." And yes, in terms of its etiology, the problem dealt with in this book issues forth from complex family-system dynamics (I assume Red Carnation and I are both talking about the set of ideas about interactional patterns and family dynamics that came from the cybernetics milieu -- e.g., Gregory Bateson, Paul Watzlawick, Don Jackson, Jay Haley, Mara Selvini Palazzoli, Salvador Minuchin, and their intellectual descendants and fellow travelers). There are acknowledgements of that perspective in the text. See, e.g., pp. 308 - 09 of the 2d edition. But this book is about a behavior which courts have increasingly decided represents a bright line that should not be crossed, in the same way physical domestic violence has come to be just about universally regarded. It doesn't matter so much what led a parent to think the behavior was reasonable as it does whodunnit, and how -- and how to show it in a way a judge might buy. That is what matters in the tragic zero-sum game of family court. And, considered in terms of the needs of the people who work in that sausage factory, this book should be considered indispensable. Your mileage may vary.

I have just started reading this resource and within the first few chapters alone have gained so much understanding of this tragic outcome of high-conflict divorce and custody disputes. A must read for those who find themselves in the middle of this crisis.

An eye-opening, highly detailed yet understandable explanation of the psychological processes and resulting harmful effects which parental alienation and brainwashing have on the minds and health of children of divorce. Specific (and unnerving) explanations of the deterioration of a child's mind and emotions when one parent 'weaponizes' the child to turn against and even hate the other parent for no reason other than destroying the parent-child relationship.. MUST READ for anyone who is a target of parental alienation, deals with it in divorce or social circumstances (judges, attorneys, investigators, therapists), and child/adult victims of parental alienation and brainwashing who may wonder - 'why do I feel this way?'. Superb.

Excellent!

I have firsthand experience with this topic, and I have worked with many victims of this type of brainwashing in my position as director of America's Stolen Children Network. I believe I've read every book on this subject and none compare to this one. This is simply the best reference available. If you are a therapist or counselor, do not consider interacting with clients of this kind without having read this book. This is the real deal!

Parents who use children as pawns should be banished from planet parenthood and earth..

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