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New Jersey Safe & Sound Website Attracts Worldwide Attention to Underreported Issue of Predatory Alienation
Draft Legislation To Protect Families Is Available for Review at www.njsafeandsound.org

TEANECK, NJ – May 6, 2013 – For some families, Mother’s Day heightens the anguish over an empty chair at the table where once sat a beloved son, daughter, sister, or brother victimized by predatory alienation. In these households, previously loving teenagers and young adults were turned against their own relatives by an outside influence—incited to leave home, give up their favorite activities, and sever all relationships. If the person being manipulated is over 16, there is nothing that his or her parents can legally do about it.



“Teens and young adults who are convinced by someone else to reject and abandon their loved ones come from regular families,” says Arnold Markowitz, LCSW, of Tenafly, who has specialized in the treatment of adolescents, young adults, and family alienation and disruption in New Jersey and New York for more than 30 years. “They have fallen victim to the use of sophisticated psychological techniques, manipulation, and control mechanisms that seize on normal adolescent issues and turn these kids against their own parents, who they come to fear and distrust. Convincing and charismatic, the perpetrators are driven by their own psychological disturbance and a need to control others to confirm their distorted view of the world. Their typical motivations are money, sex, and a zealous belief that their values are the only truths. As a result of their actions, families are shattered, parents devastated by rejection and self doubt, and siblings often cannot move on in life with normal development.”

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In its initial weeks of operation, NJ Safe & Sound, a new website that provides resources and gathers information from families that have been traumatized by such malicious undue influence, has drawn visitors from 23 states, Washington, DC, Canada, Europe, and Australia.

The website includes the text of a bill currently being drafted by Senator Loretta Weinberg (D-District 37) to defend the integrity of the family and provide recourse against those who would attempt to destroy healthy family connections. Since being posted on the website, the draft bill has received additional support from a growing number of state representatives.

Visitors to www.njsafeandsound.org can review the proposed legislation, sign a petition for its passing, and fill out a questionnaire about their own experience with a ruptured relationship. They also will find answers to FAQs, and sample letters they can use to encourage state legislators and the governor to support the proposed bill.

To interview Arnold Markowitz, other mental health specialists in this area, or family members suffering the effects of an alienation, contact Mary Gendron, mgendron@mg-pr.com, 212.980.9065.

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