



PARENTAL ALIENATION

Dear Editor,

As the director of a newly-formed organization called Broken Ties, a support group for alienated parents, I was extremely pleased to see you cover the subject of rejected parents in your forum, *The Couch*. At the behest of the many members of our group, I am writing to thank the professionals who took the time to share their knowledge of estranged parents. It was heartwarming to realize that one by one, each therapist made mention of the horrific pain these parents experience. I will add that it is a pain that is totally encompassing and debilitating. It is a paralyzing grief and often imprisons its victims in its grip.

With reference to the questioner's query, I would like to share a little about my observation in our group. What I have come to realize is that many parents are alienated from their children not so much because of something that is going on between the parent and child, but rather as a result of the manipulative practices of a

third party. I do feel that the letter writer was likewise referencing this concept, as she mentions that she has lost her relationship with another child due to the influence of her daughter.

Some of the professionals mentioned that the alienation could have been fueled by the misguided guidance of relatives and therapists. All of us at Broken Ties appreciate your being vocal on this. Unfortunately, in our group, there are far too many members who are screaming that the therapists have labeled them as unloving or unstable parents. I personally have gotten to know these women, and what I see are wonderful loving mothers who are simply in shock at the trauma they are experiencing.

What stands out is the reluctance of anyone, whether professional or a community advocate, to take an interest and to hear both sides of the story. Far too often, it appears that the children feel convinced of a "truth" that the parents are begging to clarify.

As mentioned by your professionals,

we need the collaboration of *rabbonim* and therapists to work together with families to rebuild once-loving relationships. Hopefully, your forum will be the catalyst to bring about the implementation of further study and practices that will restore once-loving families.

For those wishing to learn more about alienation in our community, you can reference our website, www.parentalalienation613.com.

Thank you once again for highlighting this tragic crisis in the *Yated*.

Guli Weinfeld
Director, Broken Ties

INSPIRED

Dear Editor,

Last week's front cover and article was absolutely amazing and inspirational. I am proud that Rabbi J.J. Eizik's story was featured.

An Avid Reader

STORY OF FAITH

Dear Editor,

I read with fascination the article on Rabbi JJ Eizik last week. Tears streamed down my cheeks much of the time I spent reading it. First I cried about his disease and then when reading of the powerful *brachos* he

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