

Parental Alienation: A Target Parent Perspective.

To the organisation manager,

We are writing to ask if your organisation would be willing to advertise a study we are currently undertaking at the University of Tasmania, titled 'Parental Alienation: A Target Parent Perspective'. This study is examining how parents experience alienation from their child, which is encouraged by an ex-partner. This research is being conducted as a partial fulfilment of a Master of Clinical Psychology degree for Sian Balmer under the supervision of Dr. Mandy Matthewson and Dr. Kimberly Norris.

The following is some more information about the study for your knowledge:

What is the purpose of this study?

The aim of this study is to examine the characteristics and experiences of parental alienation from the perspective of the parent who is alienated from their child.

Why have I been invited to advertise?

You have been invited to advertise this study because we believe that this organisation could potentially have the outreach to assist in the recruitment of our target audience. Our research targets are parents aged between 18 to 60 years in the general population, who are currently alienated from one of their biological children. It is important to acknowledge that your participation to advertise this research is voluntary, whilst we would appreciate your involvement, we respect your right to decline and this decision will have no consequences. Additionally, if you decide to withdraw your consent to advertising at any stage during the study, you may do so without providing an explanation. The information that will be gained throughout the potential participation of individuals from this organisation will be kept completely confidential, they will be identified by a unique code, and no names will be used in the publication of this research. All information will be kept in a locked storage compartment in the School of Psychology and a secure computer file.

What will participants be asked to do?

The research will take place online via Limesurvey. Participants will be asked to complete a consent form prior to being asked to complete a survey. This will involve a series of questions with scales ranging from 0 = strongly agree to 4= strongly disagree, or 0 = never to 4 = always, for example. Here is an

Organisation Letter of Invitation, January 2015

example statement: 'In the last month, have you experienced interference with time spent with your child?'. This process should take approximately 1 hour.

Are there any possible benefits from advertising this study?

The results of the study may have implications for the development of improved therapeutic assistance for people struggling with similar alienated relationships.

Are there any possible risks from participation in this study?

There are no specific risks associated with participating in this study. However, participants may find the questions upsetting.

What if I change my mind during or after the study?

You are free to withdraw your advertisement of this study at any time, and if you decide to do so, you may without providing an explanation. The individuals of this organization who may potentially participate are also free to withdraw from this study at any time, and they too can do so without providing an explanation. Although, once they have completed the study they will be unable to withdraw their data as it has been collected anonymously.

What will happen to the information when this study is over?

The data from this study will be stored in a School of Psychology locked storage compartment and a secure computer database. The data will be destroyed five years after the publication of the thesis via secure document disposal and deletion of files (November 2019). The data will be kept in a confidential manner and only the researchers involved in this study will have access to this data.

How will the results of the study be published?

This study following completion will be accessible on the University of Tasmania website (www.utas.edu.au), and will be produced as a Masters thesis. Participants will be non-identifiable in the publication of results.

What if I have questions about this study?

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Organisation Letter of Invitation, January 2015

“This study has been approved by the Tasmanian Social Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study, please contact the Executive Officer of the HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 7479 or email human.ethics@utas.edu.au. The Executive Officer is the person nominated to receive complaints from research participants. Please quote ethics reference number [H14391].”

Thank you for taking time to consider advertising this research. We have included a flyer if you wish to display it.

Kind regards,

Sian Balmer (Masters Student)

Dr Mandy Matthewson (Clinical Psychologist/Lecturer/Chief Investigator)

Dr Kimberely Norris (Clinical Psychologist/Lecturer/Co-researcher)