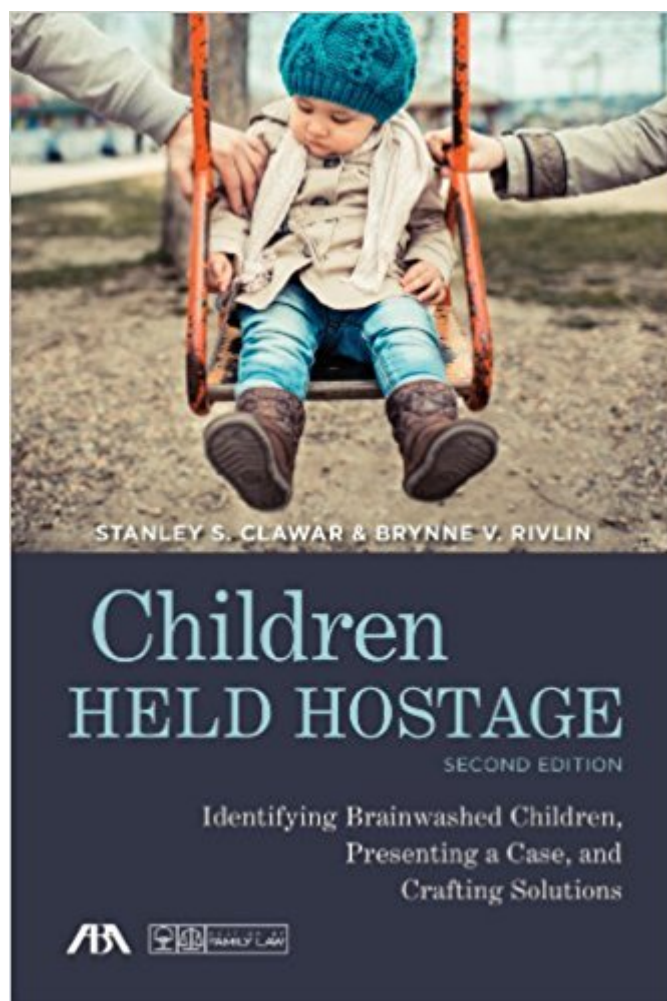


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# Children Held Hostage: Identifying Brainwashed Children, Presenting A Case, And Crafting Solutions



## 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

Dr. Stanley S. Clawar is a Professor at Rosemont College, Chair of the Clinical Sociology/Sociological Practice, Forensic Sociology/Criminology, and Deaf Studies programs. Dr. Clawar is Director of Walden Counseling and Therapy Center in Bryn Mawr, PA. 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.

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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