

**Carl Sargeant AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant  
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00498/17

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

12 April 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March seeking my views on the issues raised by the Recognition of Parental Alienation petition (Petition P-O5-751).

In light of recent developments, the Family Justice Network for Wales reviewed its position on parental alienation at its meeting on 28 March. The Network recognises some parents can behave in a way that alienates the other parent from their child's life and acknowledges the significant impact this type of behaviour can have on the emotional well being of the child.

Network members agreed that under existing legislation, the Family Court already has sufficient range of powers to deal with cases where alienating behaviours feature and where appropriate, cases can and have been considered by Welsh local authorities under child protection procedures. On that basis, the Network's view remains unchanged in that parental alienation should continue to be dealt with using current legal provisions.

The court has wide discretion to make arrangements designed to meet a child's needs and has the power to ask CAF/CASS Cymru to prepare a welfare report into any matters relevant to the child or family. CAF/CASS Cymru practitioners, as professionally qualified social workers, are trained to understand and recognise the potential for implacable hostility by a party in divorce or separation cases and its potential impact on the child..

Yours sincerely

**Carl Sargeant AC/AM**  
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

