

Edward Kruk, MSW, PhD

On Sunday, October 2nd from 8-9 PM EDT, we will have our webinar. Our guest presenter for this event will be Edward Kruk, Ph. D, MSW.

Strategies for Prevention and Intervention in the Preservation of Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships

The alienation of grandparents from the lives of their grandchildren after parental separation has been largely overlooked in social science research, despite the fact that the importance of the grandparent-grandchild attachment bond is the subject of considerable research. My presentation will report the results of an exploratory study of grandparent alienation, from the perspective of grandparents themselves. There are four primary circumstances associated with grandparent alienation: parental separation, conflict with both parents, death of an adult child, and step-parent adoption following remarriage. In particular, paternal grandparents are at high risk for losing contact with grandchildren when the child-in-law is the custodial mother. Disrupted grandparent-grandchild relationships, which some grandparents describe as a "primal wound," have profoundly negative consequences for grandparents and grandchildren alike, and this has important implications for legal policy and therapeutic practice.