

April 6, 2010

Mary Jo M. Dales
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Dear Ms. Dales:

Clinical Psychiatry News Editorial Board Member Paul J. Fink, MD makes a shockingly irresponsible assertion in his recent column "The DSM-5 promises to change the practice of psychiatry in a big way" (*Clinical Psychiatry News*, March, 2010). Fink writes that family court reform groups seeking to have Parental Alienation Disorder seriously considered for inclusion in DSM V are doing so because they "don't like to be interfered with when they are sexually abusing their children." No, that is not a misprint.

Fink directs the comment at "This group [that] has petitioned the DSM task force to include PAS in the publication," meaning Fathers & Families. As is well known, since December, thousands of letters have been sent from Fathers & Families members to the three leaders of the DSM Task Force as part of our public campaign on the issue.

The purpose of the letters has been to be sure that members of the Task Force understand how prevalent and devastating the effects of PAD are. But we have respectfully left the determination of whether PAD belongs in DSM V to those in the mental health professions. All information concerning our campaign can be seen on our website at www.fathersandfamilies.org. Fathers & Families has conducted itself responsibly and professionally throughout the campaign, and Fink has absolutely no basis for his assertions.

We demand that Fink either publicly provide a documented basis for defaming us as individuals and as an organization or that the *Clinical Psychiatry News* publish a full retraction, prominently positioned, of Fink's outrageous comments. We also cannot help

but wonder whether a person so ready to make unsubstantiated accusations of criminal behavior properly belongs on the Editorial Board of a responsible publication and would like your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Glenn Sacks, MA

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