

March 28, 2023

Mr. Kevin Neimond  
Chief Policy and Communications Officer, CDHS

Dear Kevin,

As I prepare for upcoming meetings with legislators to inform them of the fundamental failings of HB23-1108 and HB23-1178, I keep coming back to the 2019 CFRT 19-074 report and the resulting Domestic Violence & Child Welfare (DV&CW) task force.

The CFRT report stated:

- **Parental Alienation** was an **identified risk** and **contributing factor**,
- “a systemic gap in Colorado’s Children’s Code in that there is no inclusion of domestic violence or **parental alienation in the child abuse and neglect definitions.**”
- “recommended proposing and supporting a legislative change for domestic violence and **parental alienation to be included in the Colorado Children’s Code of abuse and neglect.**”

Then two weeks after the first DV&CW public meeting, the facilitators issued revised guidelines for the group that ... “**parental alienation** and false allegations of abuse will not be the dominant themes of the Task Group. They **distract us from our purpose.**”

Since I experienced this firsthand, I’m clear on how and why this happened. But the question remains....**Why were the facilitators allowed to act in direct contradiction to the recommendations of the CFRT report regarding parental alienation?**

The facilitators allowing this to happen, and the two bills are a direct result of DV advocates pushing a gender ideological agenda that is based on a law professor’s paper that promotes parental alienation is a legal defense used by abusive fathers to win custody from protective mothers. I shared with you previously that this paper was not peer reviewed, did not use accepted or repeatable scientific methods, was not published in any credible journal, and has been widely debunked in the scientific community studying family violence.

Further highlighting the facilitators’ negligence, on multiple occasions, Dr. Jennifer Harman, CSU Associate Professor of Psychology and internationally recognized leading researcher on family violence with an emphasis on parental alienation, reached out to CDHS leadership and DV&CW facilitators offering her expertise to help with CFRT’s fourth recommendation. Despite this valuable Colorado resource, Dr. Harman’s offers to help were ignored.





It's frustrating that CDHS leadership allowed itself to be misled by a small group promoting the gender ideology that mothers can only be victims or protective parents and all fathers are abusive if the mothers simply claim that they are. This gender biased ideology is the sole basis for 1108 and 1178. I'll share this point with legislators and the Governor's office as I lobby against these bills. It's not too late for CDHS to take a position and oppose these bills.

Beyond these bills, the question is....How does CDHS move forward and hold true to the CFRT findings and implement its recommendations?

We all agree that child safety and wellbeing is our number one priority. I hope you and CDHS will also agree that domestic violence policy and programs should be based on these Core Values:

**Inclusiveness:** All victims deserve to be heard and to be helped.

**Fairness:** All parties are entitled to fairness and due process.

**Science:** Domestic violence programs should be based on reliable data, evidence, and science.

Thank you, Kevin. I look forward to working with you and CDHS to improve child safety and wellbeing.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Carl Roberts', with a stylized, flowing script.

Carl Roberts