High-conflict Family Court is a term that refers to divorce and other custody and placement disputes that are marked by:

- intense and prolonged litigation
- court orders that are violated and not enforced
- judgments made on mistaken assumptions
- extreme lack of trust between parents,
- high levels of fear and anger

One-parent:

- projects blame on the other
- cannot co-parent
- makes false allegations of abuse and
- sabotages the relationship between the child and the other parent.

Psychological/emotional abuse & neglect is the most prevalent and damaging type of abuse; but it is grossly underreported and rarely interrupted.

A big problem is identifying where and how these children are being emotionally abused and neglected.

However, every high-conflict family court case is riddled with trauma because of the combination of parental mental illness, domestic violence, and child psychological abuse.

Our children, especially our teenagers sacrifice their own development and lives to be what the controlling parent demands and the cluster B pathology is transmitted to the next generation.

We are parents with lived experience fighting to stop the prolonged trauma in high-conflict family court, despite being the target of the other parent’s blame and punishment.

Verona, Wisconsin
www.targetedparent.com
The National Alliance for Targeted Parents (natp)

Our Vision:
To stop parents with untreated personality disorders from psychologically abusing their children, destroying resilient family ties, and transmitting their personality disorders to the next generation.

Our Mission:
To educate child and family advocates about the toxic levels of stress inflicted on children and the non-abusing parent caught in the throes of high-conflict family court.

Cluster B ACEs

Our Children:
1. Live with an untreated mentally ill parent.
2. Witness domestic violence in the form of coercive control.
3. Experience chronic, intense psychological abuse.
4. Experience chronic, intense psychological neglect.
5. Lose their one healthy and nurturing parent.
6. Participate in domestic abuse of parent by proxy.
7. Live with substance abuse or other destructive behaviors.
8. Experience physical abuse (not always present)
9. Experience physical neglect (not always present)
10. Experience sexual abuse (not always present)

Clinical Symptoms of Child Psychological/Emotional Abuse

1. The child is coerced into aligning with the abusive parent and rejecting their healthy parent. The only way a child can do this is to suppress his or her secure attachment.

2. The child will exhibit 5 narcissistic and/or borderline personality disorder traits, role modeled by the abusive parent; including superiority over the “targeted” parent and black and white thinking called splitting.

3. The child will adopt the abusive parent’s paranoid and persecutory encapsulated shared delusion. (ICD 10; code 24)

4. The child will have an ACE score of 7+ putting them at the highest risk for developing physical and mental health impairments.

Adapted from C.A. Childress, Psy.D.