

SHAWN A. WYGANT, M.A., T.L.L.P.

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SUMMARY

Mr. Wygant is a highly skilled and dedicated forensic psychological evaluator, clinical therapist, and expert witness with demonstrated success in providing expert analysis of high-conflict family law cases and implementing effective treatment plans for clients with varying mental health concerns. He has an exemplary understanding of the nature of parent-child relational problems that arise within the context of high-conflict divorces and how to properly evaluate the best interest of the child factors.

Areas of Expertise & Research:

- Parental Alienation
 - Cognitive Neuroscience
 - Humanistic Therapy
 - Existential Therapy
 - Gestalt Therapy
 - Emotion-Focused Therapy
 - Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy (REBT)
 - Adjudicative Competency
 - Structural Family Therapy
 - Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)
 - Police Interrogation Techniques
 - Personality Disorders
 - Factitious Disorders
 - Criminal Responsibility
 - False Memories
 - Brainwashing/Programming
 - Forensic Interviewing Techniques
 - Child Suggestibility
 - Psychological Testing
 - False Allegations of Abuse
 - False Confessions
 - Child Psychological Maltreatment
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[Ausable Valley Community Mental Health](#) (Tawas, MI)

2017-2018

Practicum in Clinical Psychology

Provided clinical psychology services in an outpatient clinic employing cognitive behavioral and emotion-focused methods for the diagnosis and treatment of psychological dysfunction. Services included: emergency screening, case conceptualization, intake assessment, differential diagnosis, treatment planning, individual therapy, and group therapy. Adapted and applied the State of Michigan “[Person-Centered Planning](#)” policy with each client honoring their preferences, choices, and abilities within a supportive and empathetic therapeutic environment.

[PsychLaw.net, PLLC](#) (Oscoda & Hamburg, MI)

2016-Present

Forensic Psychology Associate, Evaluator, & Expert Witness

Provides expert analysis and testimony concerning parental alienation, child psychological maltreatment, false memory induction, forensic interviewing techniques, and false allegations of child abuse. Aids counsel, the courts, and triers of fact in making the best possible decisions concerning complicated behavioral science evidence involving

parent-child relationships. Works with licensed forensic psychologist [Demosthenes Lorandos, PhD, JD](#) to create forensic psychological reports used in court to support expert witness testimony. Provides forensic and clinical psychological services for high conflict family law cases specializing in the expert evaluation of child neglect/abuse issues that involve parental alienation and other forms of psychological maltreatment. Areas of practice include:

- Parental Alienation Diagnosis, Assessment & Treatment
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Expert Testimony
- Child Abuse/Neglect Assessments
- Emotion-Focused Therapy (EFT)
- Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy (REBT)
- Structural Family Therapy (SFT)
- Parenting Coordinator
- Forensic Interview Analysis
- Psychological Testing
- Parent Education Programs
- Domestic Batterers Intervention Groups

Joshi | Attorneys & Counselors (Ann Arbor, MI)

2013-Present

Forensic Psychological Researcher

Provides forensic psychological analysis of high-conflict law cases involving parental alienation. Drafts behavioral science memorandums and forensic psychological legal briefs used to answer questions of fact. Develops interim strategies to ameliorate perverse family drama triangles that involve the unjustified abrogation of a child's right to a close and continuing relationship with both parents.

Iosco County Psychological Services (Oscoda, MI)

2012-Present

Owner/Director, Clinical Therapist and Forensic Psychological Evaluator

Provides clinical and forensic psychological services to Northern Michigan clients. Using a client-centered humanistic and emotion-focused approach to therapy, Mr. Wygant works with individuals and families to help them strengthen their sense of self, learn how to process and manage emotions, and develop important interpersonal skills. Helps mental health and legal professionals understand the family dynamics of parental alienation and other forms psychological maltreatment. Areas of practice include:

- Parental Alienation Diagnosis, Assessment, & Treatment
- Family Therapy
- Individual Therapy
- Child Custody Evaluation
- Group Therapy
- Child Abuse & Neglect Assessments
- Psychological testing
- Parent-Child Reunification Therapy
- Forensic Interview Analysis

- Parent Education Programs
- Acting as a Guardian ad Litem
- Acting as a Parenting coordinator
- Expert Testimony
- Parental Fitness Evaluations
- CE and CLE Training for Mental Health and Legal Professionals

Tawas United Methodist Church (Tawas City, MI)

2012-Present

Music Director / Pianist / Organist

Rehearses, directs, and accompanies two choral ensembles (Praise and Sanctuary Choirs). Leads the singing during worship services. Provides multimedia support and music for all services.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Oscoda, MI)

2002-2011

Pianist / Organist

Rehearsed and accompanied choir. Provided music for services including weddings and funerals.

Michigan Aerobics & Fitness (Hartland & Oscoda, MI)

2002-2010

Cardio Kickboxing, Spinning, & Tai Chi Instructor

Provided aerobics instruction for cardio-kickboxing, spinning, and tai chi (sun, yang, and chen) classes at North Oakland Family YMCA, Bally's Total Fitness of Southfield, Powerhouse Gym of Livonia and Rochester Hills, The Gym of Lake Orion & Orion Judo Club, Corefit Pilates of Brighton, Oscoda Community Center, and Huron Sports.

Arthritis Foundation Michigan (Troy, MI)

2002-2005

Tai Chi Instructor

Taught Dr. Paul Lam's '[Tai Chi for Arthritis](#)' program, as adapted by the Michigan chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, to small and large groups of adults throughout Michigan.

PianoNation, Inc. (Traverse City, Novi, & Bloomfield Hills MI)

2000-2005

Sales Manager / Music Technology Clinician

Managed retail piano store. Sold new and used digital and acoustic pianos (*Technics, Young Chang, Seiler, Bechstein, Kurzweil, Weinbach, & Viscount*). Developed & maintained web-site. Wrote, directed & produced TV, radio, and print advertising. Hired and trained piano teachers. Developed and managed annual institutional sales and academic placement services.

Kurtz Music, Inc. (Traverse City, MI)

1995-2000

Sales Manager / Music Technology Clinician / Piano Teacher

Managed retail piano store. Sold Yamaha and Kawai digital and acoustic pianos. Organized and promoted institutional sales and musical instrument loan programs for [Interlochen Summer Arts Camp](#), [Bay View Music Festival](#), and [Concord Academy](#). Trained new teachers and sales staff.

Achievements:

- Increased annual gross sales from \$540k to 1.01 million (+89%).

- Highest number of pianos sold during any institutional piano sale (42 units).

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (Gaylord, MI) 1995-1997

Pianist / Organist / Choir Director

Rehearsed, directed, and accompanied choir. Provided music for services including weddings and funerals.

Troy Adventist Academy (Troy, MI) 1993-1995

Piano Teacher

Taught piano and music theory to the elementary school students.

Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church (Royal Oak, MI) 1992-1995

Pianist / Organist

Rehearsed and accompanied choir. Provided music for services including weddings and funerals.

Valhalla Music, Inc. (Ferndale, MI) 1987-1992

Head Programmer / Music Technology Clinician

Programmed and created voice sound libraries for popular keyboards by Yamaha, Roland, Ensoniq, and Korg which were sold through [Keyboard Magazine](#) and [Electronic Musician](#). Sequenced, composed, and recorded demos for all of the sound libraries.

Achievements:

- Created the most popular selling and critically acclaimed library of sounds for the Roland D-50 (Studio Series)
- Increased annual gross sales from \$225k to 550k (+144%)

Wygant Music, Inc. (Oscoda, MI) 1981-Present

Owner / Concert Pianist / Piano Teacher / Composer

Provides musical services specializing in classical and sacred music composition and performance.

Achievements:

- March 27th, 1993 ~ Premiere of Mass in D with the St. Hugo of the Hills Choir, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- February 12th, 1995 ~ Premiere of Piano Concerto No. 1 in C-Sharp Minor with the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra at Temple Beth El, Birmingham, MI
- July 8th, 1996 ~ Premiere of Violin Concerto No. 1 in F Major with Fine Arts Strings, Scottsdale, AZ
- March 14th, 1999 ~ Premiere of Piano Concerto No. 2 in A Major and Season Suite for flute & guitar at Milliken Auditorium, Traverse City, MI.

St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church (Bloomfield Hills, MI) 1972-1980

Percussionist / Pianist / Organist

Performed classical and sacred music with the St. Hugo of the Hills church folk ensemble during weekly services, holy days of obligation, weddings, and funerals. Played and sang sacred music at nursing homes, the March of Dimes, the Spina Bifida Association, and State psychiatric hospitals.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology Michigan School of Professional Psychology, Farmington Hills, MI	2016-2018
Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology Argosy University, Phoenix, AZ	2013-2015
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Criminal Justice Argosy University, Phoenix, AZ	2009-2013

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE

[Master's Ltd. Psychologist - Temp Ed Ltd \(TLLP\)](#) ~ Active ~ Expires 09/17/2020
Permanent ID #6301017618

CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, & PRESENTATIONS

Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Continuing Education Training Seminar on Parental Alienation (September 21, 2018). Trainer and presenter of a 4-hour (4 Social Work CEUs and 4 Child Credits) seminar concerning parental alienation (“Alienation of Children and Families”) held at the AVCMA St. Vincent Training Annex, West Branch, Michigan, September 21, 2018. This training seminar for social workers and family therapists taught participants:

- How to identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation,
- Compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of psychological abuse,
- Classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and
- Construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of the children and the families.

Federal Bar Association’s “Parental Alienation (PA) and Parental Alienation Syndrome” CLE Webinar (October 18, 2018). This CLE webinar discussed the definition and origins of parental alienation syndrome and differentiation from parental alienation, evidentiary admissibility of parental alienation, policy considerations regarding admission of parental alienation in cases alleging domestic violence and parental child abuse, and effect of evidentiary use of parental alienation on children’s constitutional and human rights.

Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) Conference (August 24-25, 2018). Second International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group ([PASG](#)), Stockholm, Sweden, August 24-25, 2018. Two-day international conference on parental alienation diagnosis, assessment, and treatment presented by 19 of the world’s leading experts in parental alienation.

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Parental Alienation Webinar (March 14, 2018). Association of Family and Conciliation Courts webinar: “An Evidence-Informed Approach to Parental Alienation” by Michael A. Saini (Ph.D.) March 14, 2018. This webinar highlighted some of the controversies concerning parental alienation and offered practical ways to integrate empirical research into decision making for child custody disputes.

Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) Conference (October 21-23, 2017). First International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group ([PASG](#)), Washington, D.C. October 21-23, 2017. Three-day conference on parental alienation education, litigation, and research presented by 29 of the world’s leading experts in parental alienation.

Psi-Chi 3rd Annual Research Symposium (June 16, 2017). Panel presenter for original research article: “Remembering Falsely: The Neural Correlates of False Memory Induction” at The Third Annual Psi Chi Research Symposium, ‘*The Intersection of Psychology and Neuroscience*,’ Michigan School of Professional Psychology, Farmington Hills, MI. June 16, 2017. This presentation involved the latest research findings concerning how false memories are induced in laboratory animals and human beings.

American College of Forensic Psychology (ACFP) 31st Annual Symposium (March 26, 2015). Researched and constructed the presentation of: [The Law and Detection of Deception](#) that was presented by Demosthenes Lorandos, Ph.D., J.D., at the [American College of Forensic Psychology 31st Annual Symposium in San Diego](#), CA. March 26, 2015.

SELECTED SCHOLARLY WORKS

Wygant, S. A. (2018). [Issues in diagnosing parental alienation](#). *ResearchGate*.

Lorandos, D., Wygant, S. A., & Craft, T. (in press). Child Sexual Abuse Interviews. In Demosthenes Lorandos (Ed.), *The Litigators Handbook of Forensic Medicine, Psychiatry, and Psychology*. Eagan, MN: Thomson Reuters / West Publishing.

Wygant, S. A. (2017). Remembering falsely: The neural correlates of false memory induction. In T. Stamper (Chair), *The Intersection of Psychology and Neuroscience*. The Third Annual Psi Chi Research Symposium at the Michigan School of Professional Psychology, 26811 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills, Michigan June 16, 2017.

Wygant, S. A. (2017). *Primary defense mechanisms in psychotherapy*. Unpublished manuscript, Michigan School of Professional Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Wygant, S. A. (2016). *Suicidality: Assessment and treatment strategies*. Unpublished manuscript, Michigan School of Professional Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

- Wygant, S. A. (2015). *The pitfalls and hazards of interviewing non-abused children for sexual abuse and how to avoid them*. Unpublished manuscript, Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2014). Paternal deprivation and its harmful effects on child development. *Forensic Family Research*, 6(1), 31-40. Unpublished manuscript, Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2013). *Research grant proposal for the prevention and treatment of child psychological maltreatment*. Unpublished manuscript, Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2012). [Child suggestibility and the misinformation effect](#). *ResearchGate*.
- Wygant, S. A. (2012). Understanding and assessing personality disorders from a dimensional perspective. *Forensic Family Research*, 4(3), 5-20. Unpublished manuscript, Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2012). [The etiology, causative factors, diagnosis, & treatment of borderline personality disorder](#). Unpublished manuscript, Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2011). *The psychopathology of Albert DeSalvo*. Unpublished manuscript, Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2010). Hysterical, dissociative, and factitious conditions of the mind. *Forensic Family Research*, 2(1), 24-32. Unpublished manuscript, Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2010). *Profiling & identifying serial killers: A case study of child killer Albert Fish*. PowerPoint Presentation.
- Wygant, S. A. (2010). *State v. Kip Kinkle: A case for replacing the insanity defense with guilty-but-mentally-ill*. Unpublished manuscript, Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2009). *Child maltreatment: Emotional abuse & mental injury defined*. Unpublished manuscript, Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (Madison, WI)	2018-Present
Parental Alienation Study Group (Nashville, TN)	2017-Present
Psi-Chi (MiSPP Chapter, Farmington Hills, MI)	2017-Present
American Bar Association (Chicago, IL)	2011-Present