

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

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SUMMARY

Mr. Wygant is a highly skilled and dedicated forensic psychology associate, clinician, 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
 - Dangerousness Assessment
 - [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 (REID)
 - 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

Iosco County Psychological Services (Oscoda, MI)

2018-Present

Forensic Psychology Associate & Clinician Supervised by Licensed Psychologist

Provides forensic and clinical psychological services to residents of Northern Michigan. Provides expert analysis of psycho-legal questions that arise within criminal, civil, and dependency cases. Aids counsel and triers of fact in making the best possible decisions concerning complicated behavioral science evidence. Specializes in the assessment of child neglect/abuse issues that involve severe forms of child psychological maltreatment. Areas of practice include, but are not limited to:

- Diagnosis, Assessment, and Treatment of Parental Alienation
- Child Abuse & Neglect Assessments
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Expert Testimony
- Psychological Testing
- Parental Fitness Evaluations
- Forensic Assessment of Psychological Injuries
- CE / CLE Training for Mental Health and Legal Professional

Ausable Valley Community Mental Health (Tawas, MI)

2017-2018

Practicum in Clinical Psychology Supervised by Licensed Psychologist

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 & Clinician Supervised by Licensed Psychologist

Provides expert analysis and evaluation of psycho-legal questions that arise within criminal, civil, and dependency cases. Aids counsel and triers of fact in making the best possible decisions concerning complicated behavioral science evidence specializing in the expert evaluation of child neglect/abuse issues that involve severe forms of child psychological maltreatment such as Parental Alienation, Munchausen by Proxy, and Induced Delusional Disorder. Works with licensed forensic psychologist [Demosthenes Lorandos, PhD, JD](#) to create forensic psychological reports used in court to support expert witness testimony. Areas of practice include, but are not limited to:

- Parental Alienation Diagnosis Assessment & Treatment
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Expert Testimony
- Child Abuse/Neglect Assessment
- Sexual Offender Evaluations
- Dangerousness & Future Risk Assessment
- Interrogative Suggestibility Assessment
- Court Ordered Therapy
- Parent-Child Reunification Therapy & Programs
- Guardian ad Litem
- Parenting Coordinator
- Forensic Interview Analysis
- Psychological Testing
- Parent Education Programs
- Criminal Responsibility Assessment
- Competency to Stand Trial Evaluations
- Malingering & Deception Evaluations
- Mitigating Factors Assessment
- Forensic Assessment of Psychological Injury
- Domestic Batterers Intervention Groups
- Parental Fitness Evaluations
- Trial Strategy and Case Consultations
- CE and CLE Training for Mental Health and Legal Professionals

Lorandos-Joshi Trial Lawyers (2013-2016) / Joshi Attorneys & Counselors (2016-Present) (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 in high conflict custody cases. 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.

Tawas United Methodist Church (Tawas City, MI) 2012-Present

Music Director / Pianist / Vocalist / 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 / Vocalist

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 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 / Vocalist
 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 / Vocalist
 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 / Vocalist
 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

- Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology student 2019-2024**
 Saybrook University, Oakland, CA
- Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology 2016-2018**
 Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, MI
- Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology 2013-2015**
 Argosy University, Phoenix, AZ
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Criminal Justice 2009-2013**
 Argosy University, Phoenix, AZ

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE

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

CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, & PRESENTATIONS

Wygant, S. A. (2019, May 23). *Understanding the Sequelae Psychological Maltreatment in Alienated Children & Resolving Issues of Diagnosis, Assessment, and Treatment*. Presented at the Parental Alienation Awareness Conference for Professionals at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, May 23, 2019. This 1-hour presentation helped participants identify the forms of psychological maltreatment involved in the primary parental alienation strategies described in the peer-reviewed literature as well as how to apply the scientific method to many diagnosis, assessment and treatment issues.

Pruett, M. K., & Drozd, L. (2019, May 7). *Not Just Alienation: Resistance, Rejection, Reintegration, and Realities of Troubled Parent-Child Relationships* [Video webinar]. Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), Madison, Wisconsin. This 1-hour video webinar addressed some of the most common assessment issues (screening for safety, strength and vulnerability issues, prior abuse, maladaptive protective gatekeeping, and mis-attuned and intrusive parenting practices) as well as describing trauma-informed treatment strategies that showed participants how to incorporate a family systems approach that emphasizes problems and solutions within the co-parent relationship, rely on evidenced informed interventions, teach adaptive coping skills, and partner with the court to hold the family accountable to measurable goals.

Brown, J. (2019, April 4). *Suggestibility in Children: Clinical and Forensic Considerations*. Video webinar offered by Concept Professional Training @ Palo Alto University. This 1 hour | 1 CE webinar discussed how to conduct suggestibility assessments in clinical and forensic settings as well as explicating what the scientific literature reports about the suggestibility factors in children and adolescents.

Wygant, S. A., & Bach, L. (2019, March 23). *Exploring the Valence and Meanings of Love and Hate in the Therapeutic Relationship*. Experiential and dialogic role-playing session presented at the American Psychological Association Division 32 Society for Humanistic Psychology 12th Annual Conference, *Embracing Our Fear, Courage, and Love in Pursuit of a Just Community*, at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, March 21-24, 2019

Wygant, S. A. (2019, February 27, 2019). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Four hour continuing education (5 Social Work CEUs) training seminar on parental alienation for a group of Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (AVCMHA) mental health workers. Conducted at the AVCMHA training center in Oscoda, Michigan. This training seminar for AVCMHA social workers and family therapists taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of the children and the families.

Hoult, J. (2018, May 14). *Parental Alienation (PA) & Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS): Science, Evidentiary Admissibility, Policy & Effects on Children's Constitutional and Human Rights* [Video webinar]. Federal Bar Association, Washington D.C., May 14, 2018. This 1 CLE video webinar discussed the definition and origins of parental alienation syndrome and differentiation from parental alienation; evidentiary admissibility of parental alienation in the Courts; policy considerations regarding admission of parental alienation in cases alleging domestic violence and parental child abuse; and the effect of evidentiary use of parental alienation on children's constitutional and human rights.

Wygant, S. A. (2018, September 21). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Four hour continuing education (5 Social Work CEUs) training seminar on parental alienation for a group of Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (AVCMHA) mental health workers. Conducted at the AVCMA St. Vincent Training Annex, West Branch, Michigan, September 21, 2018. This training seminar for AVCMHA social workers and family therapists taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of the children and the families.

Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) Conference (2018, August 24-25). 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.

Saini, M. (2018, March 14). *An evidence-informed approach to parental alienation* [Video webinar]. Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), Madison, Wisconsin. This 1-hour video webinar highlighted some of the controversies concerning parental alienation and offered practical ways to integrate empirical research into decision making for child custody disputes where parental alienation is a factor.

Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) Conference (2017, October 21-23). 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.

Wygant, S. A. (2017, June 16). *Remembering Falsely: The Neural Correlates of False Memory Induction*. Presentation at the 3rd Annual Psi Chi Research Symposium, *The Intersection of Psychology and Neuroscience* held at the Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan June 16, 2017.

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

SELECTED SCHOLARLY WORKS & RESEARCH

- 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 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 Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan.
- Lorandos, D., & Bone, J. M. (2016). Child custody evaluations: In cases where parental alienation is alleged. In Mark L. Goldstein (Ed.), *Handbook of Child Custody* (pp. 179-232). New York: Springer. [Provided research and editorial support for the listed authors]
- Wygant, S. A. (2016). *Suicidality: Assessment and treatment strategies*. Unpublished manuscript, Michigan School of 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