

CURRICULUM VITAE

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, family 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
 - 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 & Licensed Therapist

Provides forensic and clinical psychological services to residents of Northern Michigan. Helps Family Courts assess and deal with complicated visitation and custody issues. Aids triers of fact in making evidenced-based decisions concerning the best interest of the child. Specializes in the assessment of child custody, severe personality disorders, and complex forms of child psychological maltreatment. Areas of practice include:

- Child Abuse / Neglect Assessments
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Parenting Coordinator
- Guardian ad litem
- Psychological Testing
- Forensic Interview Assessment
- Diagnosis, Assessment, and Treatment of Parental Alienation
- Parent-Child Reunification Therapy
- Structural Family Therapy
- Existential-Humanistic Therapy
- Expert Testimony
- Emotion-Focused Therapy
- Parental Fitness Evaluations
- CE / CLE Training for Mental Health and Legal Professionals

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 & Licensed Therapist

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:

- Child Abuse/Neglect Assessment
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Psychological Testing
- Guardian ad Litem
- Parenting Coordinator
- Expert Testimony
- Structural Family Therapy
- Parental Alienation Diagnosis Assessment & Treatment
- Parent-Child Reunification Therapy & Programs
- Dangerousness & Future Risk Assessment
- Interrogative Suggestibility Assessment
- Emotion-Focused Therapy
- Forensic Interview Assessment
- Parent Education Programs
- Criminal Responsibility Assessment
- Competency to Stand Trial Evaluations
- Malingering & Deception Evaluations
- Mitigating Factors Assessment
- Existential-Humanistic Therapy
- 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

[State of Michigan Psychologist - Doctoral Temp Educ Ltd \(TLLP\)](#) ~ Active ~
Issue Date 06/14/2019 Expiration Date 06/14/2021 ~ Permanent ID # 6301017618

[State of Michigan Master's Ltd. Psychologist - Temp Ed Ltd \(TLLP\)](#)
Issue Date 09/17/2018 Nullified 06/14/2019 ~ Permanent ID # 6301017618

CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, & PRESENTATIONS

Wygant, S. A., Burgess, B. W., & Van Gunst, A. (2019, September 13). [*Third Party Alienation: How Professional Participants Play the Part of Rescuer in the Alienating Parent's Perverse Family Drama Triangle*](#). Panel presentation (1.5 hours) at the Third International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, September 12-14, 2019.

Wygant, S. A. (2019, September 12). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Presented 4-hour (5 Social Work CEUs) training seminar at the Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (AVCMHA) St. Vincent Training Annex, West Branch, 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.

Rappaport, S. R. (2019, September 11). *Psychological Testing in Family Law Matters*. [Video webinar]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. This 1-hour CE live webinar described what type of questions psychological testing can answer; the use and misuse of psychological testing in custody cases; when psychological testing should be conducted in family law matters; and what various psychological tests are used in custody related matters.

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 and describe the sequelae of psychological maltreatment in alienated children as well as resolve diagnostic, assessment, and treatment issues using the science drawn from the empirical research.

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 [Palo Alto University, Continuing & Professional Studies](#) ~ [Consolidated Continuing Education & Professional Training \(CONCEPT\)](#). 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*. Presented 4-hour (5 Social Work CEUs) training seminar at the Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (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.

Fidler, B. J. (2017, July 19). [*Parent-Child Contact Problems II: More News You Can Use*](#). [Video webinar viewed October 12, 2018]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. This 1-hour video on demand webinar presentation addressed critical elements of whole family interventions, including: (a) treatment objectives; (b) clinical intake/screening assessment process (including acceptance criteria) and treatment plan development; (c) treatment court orders and informed consent agreements; and, (d) fundamental interventions implemented with family members individually (child, each parent), with dyads (child with each parent and co-parents together), and with the family as a whole.

Wygant, S. A. (2018, September 21). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Presented 4-hour (5 Social Work CEUs) training seminar at the Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (AVCMHA) St. Vincent Training Annex, West Branch, 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.

Sullivan, M. J. (2017, April 12). [Visitation Resistance](#). [Video webinar viewed September 10, 2018]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. This 1-hour video on demand webinar provided an understanding of the conceptual evolution of parental alienation over the past twenty years—from Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) to refusal and resistance dynamics (RRD)—and explored the options for legal and mental health interventions. It also addressed and discussed intensive residential interventions and considerations of changing custody from the favored parent to the rejected parent as well as the typical interventions that are ineffective such as co-parent counseling and reunification therapy.

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. [Live Streaming Online Attendee] Two-day international conference on parental alienation diagnosis, assessment, and treatment presented by 19 of the world's leading experts in parental alienation.

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 on demand]. 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.

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. One hour presentation on the latest scientific research studies into how false memories are induced in animals and human beings.

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

- Lorandos, D., Wygant, S. A., & Craft, T. (*in press*). Child Sexual Abuse Medical Examinations. In Demosthenes Lorandos (Ed.), *The Litigators Handbook of Forensic Medicine, Psychiatry, and Psychology*. Eagan, MN: Thomson Reuters / West Publishing.
- Lorandos, D., Wygant, S. A., & Craft, T. (*in press*). Child Forensic Interviews. In Demosthenes Lorandos (Ed.), *The Litigators Handbook of Forensic Medicine, Psychiatry, and Psychology*. Eagan, MN: Thomson Reuters / West Publishing.
- Wygant, S. A. (2018). [Issues in diagnosing parental alienation](#). *ResearchGate*.
- 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

[American Psychological Association Division 32: Society for Humanistic Psychology](#) #39567318 (Washington, DC) 2019-Present

[American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children](#) #3000576 (Columbus, OH) 2019-Present

[California Psychological Association](#) #58914097 (Sacramento, CA) 2019-Present

[Association of Family and Conciliation Courts](#) #62504 (Madison, WI) 2018-Present

[Parental Alienation Study Group](#) (Nashville, TN) 2017-Present

[Psi-Chi](#) (MiSPP Chapter, Farmington Hills, MI) 2017-Present

[American Bar Association](#) #01988334 (Chicago, IL) 2011-Present