

CURRICULUM VITAE

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

208 Ottawa Ct., Oscoda, MI 48750

Mobile (989) 335-5134 | Fax (989) 739-1417

Email: swygant@psychlaw.net

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shawnwygant/>

Website: www.psychlaw.net

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology (Candidate '24)
Saybrook University, Oakland, CA

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology **2018**
Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, MI

Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology **2015**
Argosy University, Phoenix, AZ

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Criminal Justice **2013**
Argosy University, Phoenix, AZ

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

[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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[Iosco County Psychological Services](#) (Oscoda, MI) **2018-Present**

Forensic Psychology Associate & Limited Licensed Psychologist

Provides supervised 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. Emphasis in the assessment of child custody and complex forms of child psychological maltreatment. Areas of supervised practice include:

- Parental alienation Diagnosis Assessment, & Treatment
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Family Therapy
- Individual Therapy
- Psychological Testing
- Expert Testimony
- Parent-Child Reunification Therapy
- Forensic Interview Analysis
- CE Training for Mental Health and Legal Professionals

Ausable Valley Community Mental Health (Tawas, MI)

2017-2018

Practicum in Clinical Psychology

Provided supervised clinical psychology services in an outpatient clinic employing cognitive behavioral and emotion-focused methods for the diagnosis and treatment of psychological dysfunction. Supervised services included: emergency screening, 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 & Limited Licensed Psychologist

Provides supervised 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 evaluation of child neglect/abuse issues that involve severe forms of child psychological maltreatment. Supervised by licensed psychologist [Demosthenes Lorandos, PhD, JD](#) to create forensic psychological reports used in court to support expert witness testimony. Areas of supervised practice include:

- Parental alienation Diagnosis Assessment, & Treatment
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Family Therapy
- Individual Therapy
- Psychological Testing
- Expert Testimony
- Parent-Child Reunification Therapy
- Forensic Interview Analysis
- CE 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 supervised 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.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

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

Pianist, choir director, vocalist, composer, arranger, and percussionist providing classical and sacred music services. Notable compositions and performances: Mass in D with the St. Hugo of the Hills Choir at St. Hugo of the Hills Cathedral (March 27th, 1993); Piano Concerto No. 1 in C-Sharp Minor with the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra at Temple Beth El, Birmingham, MI (February 12th, 1995); Violin Concerto No. 1 in F Major with Fine Arts Strings, Scottsdale, AZ (July 8th, 1996); Piano Concerto No. 2 in A Major and Season Suite for flute & guitar at Milliken Auditorium, Traverse City, MI (March 14th, 1999).

PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES & TRAINING SEMINARS

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*](#). Presented in a three-person panel session at the Third International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, September 12-14, 2019..

Wygant, S. A., & Burgess, B. W. (2019, September 13). [*The Science Behind False Allegations of Child Abuse in Cases of Parental Alienation*](#). Authored and Co-presented a 45-minute presentation concerning the science behind false allegations of child abuse in cases of parental alienation 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 a 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 child 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 alienated children and their families.

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 science drawn from the empirical research.

Wygant, S. A., & Bach, L. (2019, March 23). [*Exploring the Valence and Meanings of Love and Hate in the Therapeutic Relationship.*](#) Co-presented an experiential and dialogic role-playing session 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 a 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 child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A. (2018, September 21). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Presented a 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 child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of alienated children and their families.

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. Presented a 1-hour didactic workshop on the latest scientific research studies into how false memories are induced in animals and human beings.

CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, & PRESENTATIONS ATTENDED

Linda Cordisco Steele & Heather Stewart (2019, November 8). [Most common mistakes made in forensic interviews](#). In National Children's Advocacy Center Virtual Training Center. Attended this one hour video on demand webinar for continuing education in forensic interviewing.

Andra Chamberlin (2019, November 5). [Minimal facts interviews](#). In National Children's Advocacy Center Virtual Training Center. Attended this one hour video on demand webinar for continuing education in forensic interviewing.

Bernet, W., Lorandos, D., & Baker, A. J. L. (2019, November 1). *Research that Supports Parental Alienation*. AFCC Fall Conference: Integrating Research into Practice and Police: The Impact on Families and Children. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Attended this 90-minute presentation on two lines of research regarding parental alienation. The first line of research is the use of the psychological tests (such as the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire and the Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test), which measure the pathological defense mechanism of splitting, to distinguish severely alienated children from nonalienated children. The second is the analysis of hundreds of legal opinions, which demonstrate how trial and appellate courts in the US have found testimony regarding parental alienation to be material, probative, relevant, and admissible.

Drozd, L., & Saini, M. (2019, November 1). *Selection Bias in Family Law Research: Reliability at the Cost of Diversity*. AFCC Fall Conference: Integrating Research into Practice and Police: The Impact on Families and Children. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Attended this 90-minute presentation on ways to improve the quality and applicability of social science research within family law. This workshop explored the benefits and risks of stringent criteria for the inclusion of study participants, offered examples within the context of alienation and intimate partner violence, and discussed implications for using empirical evidence in the courtroom.

Pruett, M. K., & Drozd, L. (2019, May 7). [Not Just Alienation: Resistance, Rejection, Reintegration, and Realities of Troubled Parent-Child Relationships](#) [Video on demand webinar]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. Attended this 1-hour prerecorded video webinar as part of continuing education for parental alienation. It 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 on demand webinar offered by [Palo Alto University, Continuing & Professional Studies](#) ~ [Consolidated Continuing Education & Professional Training \(CONCEPT\)](#)]. Attended this 1-hour | 1 CE prerecorded video webinar which 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.

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. Participated in this two-day conference as a live streaming online attendee. Leading experts in parental alienation presented on the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of parental alienation.

Rappaport, S. R. (2019, September 11). *Psychological Testing in Family Law Matters*. [Live webinar]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. Attended this 1-hour CE live webinar concerning 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.

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 on demand webinar]. Federal Bar Association, Washington D.C., May 14, 2018. Attended this 1 CLE video on demand webinar that 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 on demand webinar]. Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), Madison, Wisconsin. Attended this 1-hour video on demand webinar which 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. Attended a three-day conference on parental alienation education, litigation, and research presented leading experts in parental alienation.

Fidler, B. J. (2017, July 19). [Parent-Child Contact Problems II: More News You Can Use](#). [Video on demand webinar offered by the [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. Attended this 1-hour video on demand webinar which 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.

Sullivan, M. J. (2017, April 12). [Visitation Resistance](#). [Video on demand webinar]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. Attended this 1-hour video on demand which 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.

SELECTED RESEARCH & WRITING PROJECTS

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*. [Unpublished Research Paper]

Wygant, S. A. (2017). Remembering falsely: The neural correlates of false memory induction. [Unpublished Research Paper] Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Wygant, S. A. (2017). *Primary defense mechanisms in psychotherapy*. [Unpublished Research Paper] 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 support for the listed authors]

Wygant, S. A. (2016). *Suicidality: Assessment and treatment strategies*. [Unpublished Research Paper] 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 Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.

Wygant, S. A. (2014). Paternal deprivation and its harmful effects on child development. [Unpublished Research Paper]

Wygant, S. A. (2013). *Research grant proposal for the prevention and treatment of child psychological maltreatment*. [Unpublished Research Paper]

- Wygant, S. A. (2012). [Child suggestibility and the misinformation effect](#). *ResearchGate*. [Unpublished Research Paper]
- Wygant, S. A. (2012). Understanding and assessing personality disorders from a dimensional perspective. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2012). [The etiology, causative factors, diagnosis, & treatment of borderline personality disorder](#). [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2011). *The psychopathology of Albert DeSalvo*. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2010). Hysterical, dissociative, and factitious conditions of the mind. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2010). *Profiling & identifying serial killers: A case study of child killer Albert Fish*. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2010). *State v. Kip Kinkle: A case for replacing the insanity defense with guilty-but-mentally-ill*. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Wygant, S. A. (2009). *Child maltreatment: Emotional abuse & mental injury defined*. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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| American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) (Southport, NC) | 2019-Present |
| 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 (Chattanooga, TN) #22087243 | 2017-Present |
| American Bar Association #01988334 (Chicago, IL) | 2011-Present |