



Are abusive guardians terrorists?

A White Paper by Americans Against Abusive Probate Guardianship

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For victims and families victimized by abusive guardianships, it is often impossible to understand the motivations of the stakeholders in the system that causes so much pain under the guise of protection. Simply ascribing their actions to greed is an oversimplification. A more sophisticated analysis would include the fact that in every abusers psyche there is buried the psychological pull of sadomasochism—the thrill of superiority, power, and control that comes from inflicting pain on others with impunity. This is the unspoken driver of the appeal of the absolute power that comes with guardianship which leads to absolute corruption.

A deeper understanding requires skills to access the deeper unconscious levels of psychology that are necessary for dissecting the attraction of sadomasochism of the variety we see in abusive guardianships.

Not surprisingly abusive guardians will rush to deny their sadism. They are terribly reluctant to acknowledge that they are drawn into sadism because they cannot recognize their own impulses.

Probate guardianship communicates to and interacts with us on the deepest level of perversity possible, tapping into our own terrors through projective identification---to issue a summons to obey them or otherwise become the object of their rage. The abusive guardians themselves and those who protect and represent them may not realize how revealingly transparent their aberrant behavior is; they have no capacity to look at their own behavior or to understand it psychologically.

Unconsciously and concretely, they have recreated their own group self-perception of being “caged in” emotionally and mentally because of the debilitation of ascribing to and taking part in a legalistic shame-honor legal culture: they take advantage of their ability to shame innocent families and victims with the all-powerful weapon of court authority. They realize that, in the eyes of the court, society has been shamed by what they conflate to the abuses against an elder person. They must therefore find a scapegoat and then kill off the contaminated one for all the world to see as a form of cleansing society of evildoers. Does that sound like terrorism to you?

Many self-righteous stakeholders in the guardianship industry have a cognitive deficit, and some show signs of clinical sadomasochism. A sadist seeks power through control, manipulation, and forcing the other to submit. Intimacy comes only with violence. They feel,

they bond, through violence, particularly against a defenseless person in their total control: they are obsessed with torturing the other in order to see feelings expressed on the agonized face of the other. The legalistic confections are merely a conduit through which to project their own rage and terror. This all involves sadism of the highest order. Does this sound familiar?

It is likely that abusive guardians and those who protect them may not have fully developed empathy, an emotion acquired in the earliest years of life. Moral development which begins at the age of 1 focuses on the importance of maternal attachment: The mother is most influential in shaping the baby's brain, which quadruples in size between the ages of 0 and 3, and is the repository of morality and knowledge. She is also the earliest cultural interpreter of shame and honor for her child. In other situations involving terrorists there is strong evidence to suggest that dysfunction between the mother and child at a very early age impedes maturity that identifying with the group is more important than individual identity. For complex reasons, shame and revenge dominate the thinking that such individuals display in their personal and work life but especially when empowered to turn guardianship protections on their head for their own greed and expression of rage.

Many human development experts also emphasize the need for an authoritarian father-figure to also keep the shame-honor functionaries in line, but that just repeats the awful cycle of treating people like objects: in fact, in the guardianship process, the guardianship laws and the judges function not as an authoritarian father figure with the intent of controlling sadistic behaviors but as a passive and easy to overcome all too willing speedbump to the ultimate expression of sadistic actions against defenseless wards and their families.

If we fail to consider the sadism of the professional abusers developed during their early-childhood development, we cannot possibly come to grips with their behavior.

With strong evidence that the number of sadistic guardianships is on the rise, it is imperative that we recognize and identify the underpinnings of the sadism we so commonly see inflicted on victims and their families. In identifying commonalities among this significant group of guardians, driven by clinically apparent sadism we can at least begin to understand what drives educated people who look just like us to act in ways that are so egregious harmful and difficult to understand and so incredibly contrary to every ethical and moral principle of American jurisprudence and American life.

To make progress towards reform we must recognize that the individuals who so vehemently oppose us will not treat us with respect or civility. Their methods will mirror the sadism they inflict on a daily basis on the vulnerable in our families and societies. In this David and Goliath struggle for justice we must not be reticent to call it as it is.

Abusive guardianship is a form of domestic terrorism.