



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF ALABASTER

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, strong family relationships constitute the foundation of our community; and

WHEREAS, alienating behaviors are frequently present in high-conflict divorces, separations, and asymmetrical custody arrangements; and

WHEREAS, behaviors such as speaking negatively about a parent to, or in front of a child, and interfering with parenting time and communication, can not only destroy the bond between a loving parent and child, but can cause a child mental and emotional harm; and

WHEREAS, parental alienation takes advantage of the innocent and impressionable, depriving children of their right to freely love and be loved by both parents and extended family; and

WHEREAS, mental professionals agree the negative effects of parental alienation can follow a child into adulthood with tragic consequences; and

WHEREAS, the recently published Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) made several references to the dysfunctional family dynamic of alienation to be a form of psychological child abuse; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40,000 children in the State of Alabama were subjected to child custody determinations in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Parental Alienation Prevention Week is intended to increase the knowledge and understanding of this problem to help Alabamians, institutions, and the legal and health community to better identify and combat such abusive behavior to children; and

WHEREAS, God so loved us, we also must love one another; love does no harm to its neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law; and


WHEREAS, the organizers of Parental Alienation Prevention Week are asking everyone to blow soap bubbles at noon on Saturday, April 25th, to show their support in spreading the simple message that children should be allowed to freely love both of their parents and extended family members; each free flowing bubble representing the love a child should have for his or her mother and father.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Marty B. Handlon, Mayor of the City of Alabaster, do hereby proclaim April 19 through April 25, 2015, as "**Parental Alienation Prevention Week**" and April 25, 2015, as "**Parental Alienation Awareness Day**".

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alabaster, Alabama to be affixed, this 13th day of April, 2015.


Mayor Marty B. Handlon

ATTEST


George Handlon, City Manager

