

Office of the Mayor
Athens, Alabama

Proclamation

PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK

- 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:** Parental alienation is the term used to describe any number of behaviors and attitudes on the part of one parent that are designed to interfere, damage or destroy the relationship a child has with their other parent. It's a form of abuse that causes emotional trauma to children; and
- WHEREAS:** Parental alienation deprives children of their right to freely love and be loved by both parents, their extended family, and robs children of their sense of security; and
- WHEREAS:** Mental professionals agree that 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 subjected to child custody determination in 2013; and
- WHEREAS:** Parental Alienation Prevention Week is intended to increase the knowledge and understanding of this problem to help Alabamians, institutions, the legal and mental health community, leaders to better identify and combat such abusive behavior to children; and
- WHEREAS:** God so loved us, we also ought to love one another; love does no harm to its neighbor; therefore Children should be able to freely express the meaning of F.A.M.I.L.Y. = Father And Mother, I Love You; and
- WHEREAS:** In honor of Parental Alienation Prevention Week, come and show your support by taking 10 minutes out of your day at noon, on Saturday, April 25, to blow soap "Bubbles for Love". Each bubble we blow will represent the love our children have and should be allowed to share with both their parents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William R. Marks,
Mayor of the City of Athens, do hereby proclaim
April 19 through April 25, 2015, as
PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK
and April 25, 2015, as
PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY



William R. Marks
Mayor
City of Athens, Alabama