

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** Alienating behaviors are often found in high conflict divorce and custody situations; and

**WHEREAS:** Speaking negatively about a parent to or in front of a child; interfering with communication and visitation; and discussing inappropriate information with a child, such as details of the separation, court proceedings, or financial matters, are behaviors that 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 impressionable and dependant nature of children; and

**WHEREAS:** Parental alienation deprives children of their right to love and be loved by both parents; and

**WHEREAS:** Parental alienation is considered harmful to children, as the alienating tactics are confusing, frightening and rob children of their sense of security; and

**WHEREAS:** Professionals agree that the problem of parental alienation is damaging to children and can affect them into adulthood, with tragic consequences; and

**WHEREAS:** There are more than 2.4 million divorced North Americans, and in 2010 there were more than 21,000 divorced Alabamians, including the parents of more than one million children under the age of eighteen, with nearly as many unmarried couples (in 2010 there were more than 25,000 unwed birth) with children separating; and

**WHEREAS:** With awareness come education and understanding, and the power to stop the abuse of innocent children caught in the crossfire of the people they love; dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another;

**WHEREAS:** Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. This year organizers are doing something special by asking everyone to take 10 minutes out of their day at noon on April 25<sup>th</sup>, anywhere in the state, and blow soap bubbles representing love.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, *Rebecca Lindsey*** Mayor of the City of Clayton, do hereby proclaim April 22 through April 28, 2012, as

PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK

And April 25, 2012, as

PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY

