



# Proclamation

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

**WHEREAS**, alienating behaviors are frequently seen in high-conflict divorces, separations and asymmetrical custody arrangements but can occur in intact marriages; and

**WHEREAS**, Parental Alienation is a term used to describe any number of behaviors and attitudes on the part of one parent, both parents or third party 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 families and robs children of their sense of security; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage all Alabamians to visit [paawareness.com](http://paawareness.com) for information on raising awareness to stop Parental Alienation, and we call on community and state leaders to support shared parenting because of its benefits for children; 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 Alabama children a year experience court ordered visitation with one parent for only two to six days a month; 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 and leaders to better identify and combat this 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.; **F**ather **A**nd **M**other, **I** Love **Y**ou; 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 April 25, to blow soap "Bubbles For Love". Each bubble we blow represents the love our children have and should be allowed to share with both their parents:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tab Bowling**, Mayor of the City of Decatur, Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 2019, as PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK and April 25, 2019, as PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS "Bubbles For Love" DAY



In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed at Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama.

Mayor: Tab Bowling

Attest: Stacy Biley

Date: March 25, 2019