



**THE CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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 dependent nature of children. It 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. 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 with children separating. Also, in 2010 there were more than 25,000 unwed births; and

WHEREAS, with awareness comes education and understanding, and the power to stop the abuse of innocent children caught in the crossfire of the people they love; and

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 Wednesday, April 25, everywhere across the state, and blow soap bubbles representing love.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby E. Irons, Mayor of the City of Florence, Alabama, do hereby proclaim the week of April 22 through April 28, 2012 as **PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK**, and Wednesday, April 25, 2012, as **PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this the 23rd day of March, 2012.

Bobby E. Irons

Bobby E. Irons, Mayor

