

*From the Governing Body of  
Sheffield, Alabama*

*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 and interfering with parenting time and communication can not only destroy the bond between a loving parent and child, but can also 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 families, and 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 2012; 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 mental health community leaders to better identify and combat such abusive behavior to children; and

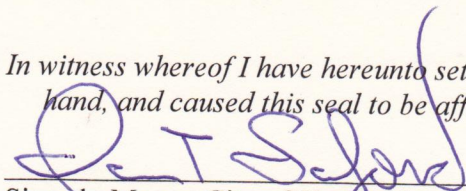
WHEREAS, God so loved us, we also ought to love one another; love does no harm to its neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law; and

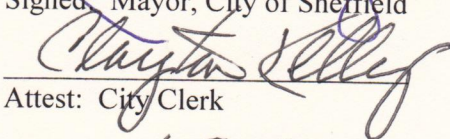
WHEREAS, the organizers of Parental Alienation Prevention Week are asking everyone to blow soap bubbles at noon on April 25<sup>th</sup> to show support in spreading the simple message that children should be allowed to freely love both parents and extended family members; each free-flowing bubble represents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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ian T. Sanford, Mayor of the City of Sheffield, do hereby proclaim April 20-April 26, 2014, as Parental Alienation Prevention Week and April 25, 2014, as Parental Alienation Awareness Day in the City of Sheffield.



*In witness whereof I have hereunto set my  
hand, and caused this seal to be affixed.*

  
Signed: Mayor, City of Sheffield

  
Attest: City Clerk

Date: 4-7-2014