



CITY OF WESTOVER
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MARK MCLAUGHLIN
Mayor

A 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 or both parents 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 were 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, and 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.; **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 Monday, April 25, to blow soap