



UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA

**College of Health
and Medicine**

Grandparents' Experience of Being Alienated from their Grandchildren

**Are you alienated from your grandchild or
grandchildren?**

**Has your grandchild been turned against you and your
son/daughter by their other parent?**

**We are conducting research into what it is like for
grandparents to be alienated from their grandchildren
as a result of parental alienation.**

**If this is you, and you are interested in finding out
more about the study or how you can participate,
please contact Dr Mandy Matthewson at**

Parental.Alienation@utas.edu.au

or

call 6226 2241



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Grandparents' Experience of Being Alienated from their Grandchildren

You are invited to participate in a study exploring grandparents' experience of parental alienation. This study is being conducted by Dr Mandy Matthewson, Dr Leesa Van Niekerk and Ms Olivia Bounds, who is completing her Masters of Clinical Psychology. Dr Matthewson is a researcher at the University of Tasmania. She is also on the Eeny Meeny Miney Mo Foundation board of directors and is a clinical psychologist in private practice. Dr Matthewson is conducting this research as part of her role at the University of Tasmania. Dr Van Niekerk is a researcher at the University of Tasmania and a clinical psychologist in private practice. She is conducting this research as part of her role at the University of Tasmania. Ms Bounds is undertaking this research as part of her Masters in Clinical Psychology at the University of Tasmania.

What is the purpose of this study?

The aim of this study is to examine grandparents' experience of being alienated from their grandchild or grandchildren.

Who can participate?

We would like to speak to grandparents who are alienated from their grandchildren or a grandchild because of parental alienation. Parental alienation occurs when one parent damages the relationship between their child and their child's other parent. If your son or daughter has been alienated from their child as a result of parental alienation, and you too have been alienated from their child as a result of this, we would like to speak with you. It is important you know that your participation in this research is voluntary.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to attend an interview at the Psychology Research Centre at the University of Tasmania in Sandy Bay. If you are unable to attend the University of Tasmania an interview via Skype or telephone can be arranged. This interview will be conducted by Dr Mandy Matthewson, Dr Leesa Van Niekerk or Ms Olivia Bounds.

You will be asked questions about your experience of being alienated from your grandchildren or grandchild. You will also be asked questions about how satisfied you are with your life and if you experience feelings of loneliness. Your interview will be audio

recorded and you will be provided with a copy of your interview transcript. You can edit this transcript if you choose and only the edited version of your transcript will be used in the research. The interview will take approximately 60 to 90 minutes.

Are there any possible benefits from participation in this study?

If you participate in this research, you may gain a greater understanding of your own experience of being alienated from your grandchildren or grandchild because of parental alienation. The results of the research may inform support services for children, parents and grandparents who are struggling with similar alienated relationships. For example, the information may lead to the development of targeted mental health interventions for alienated grandparents and their families. The information may inform the way legal representatives including independent children's lawyers advise their clients and the courts in custody disputes.

Additionally, as a thank you for your participation in the interviews, you will be entered into a draw to win a gift hamper to the value of \$50.

Are there any possible risks from participation in this study?

Some people can find it distressing to relive and reflect on their experience of being alienated from their grandchildren. If you become concerned or stressed during or after the interview please inform Dr Mandy Matthewson or Ms Olivia Bounds who will provide you with information about free counselling services that may assist you or you can contact the free counselling services listed below:

Family Relationships Advice Line - Ph: 1800 050 321

Lifeline (Crisis Counselling) - Ph: 13 11 14

Family Violence Counselling and Support - Ph: 1800 608 122

Beyond Blue - Ph: 1300 22 4636

What if I change my mind during or after the study?

It is also important you know that you can decline this invitation and this decision will have no consequences to you. Additionally, if you decide to withdraw your consent to participate in this study at any stage, you may do so without providing an explanation. If you decide to withdraw from the study after being interviewed, you may do so and you can withdraw any information you have already provided us with. However, you will need to inform us by 30th June, 2019, if you wish to withdraw your information.

What will happen to the information when this study is over?

The information collected from this study will be stored in a Division of Psychology locked storage cabinet and a secure computer database. The data will be destroyed five years after the publication of the findings via secure document disposal and deletion of files

(November 2025). The data will be kept in a confidential manner and only the researchers involved in this study will have access to this data.

How will the results of the study be published?

This study following completion will be accessible on the University of Tasmania website (www.utas.edu.au), and will be produced as publication in a journal. Some of the results of the research will be published in Ms Olivia Bounds' Masters thesis. Participants will be non-identifiable in the publication of results. It is anticipated that results will be available by the end of 2019.

What if I have questions about this study?

Please direct any questions or concerns about this study to Dr Mandy Matthewson:
Parental.Alienatio@utas.edu.au

This study has been approved by the Tasmanian Social Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study, please contact the Executive Officer of the HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 7479 or email human.ethics@utas.edu.au. The Executive Officer is the person nominated to receive complaints from research participants. Please quote ethics reference number H0017472.

If you are interested in knowing more about the research or would like to participate, please email Dr Mandy Matthewson: Parental.Alienation@utas.edu.au