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Three Little Pigs

Category: Celebrity Divorce

When I first heard the angry voice message left by actor Alec Baldwin for his eleven year old daughter Ireland I was utterly flabbergasted. After all, referring to your child as a “rude, thoughtless little pig” is not what you would expect to hear in a conversation between a loving father and child. But as I soon discovered there’s much more to this story than just appallingly poor judgement on the part of Alec Baldwin.

Alec Baldwin and fellow actress Kim Basinger appeared to have a fairytale Hollywood romance when they married in 1993, but the fairytale soon became less than enchanted, and they divorced in 2002. Unfortunately, despite the divorce they have continued to wage, an often public, legal battle against each other surrounding the custody of their daughter Ireland. Apparently what prompted Alec to respond with the angry outburst to his daughter was his daughter’s failure to answer the telephone for a pre-arranged call with him. The now apologetic Baldwin responded to criticism by claiming that he had been the target of long term “parental alienation”.

“Parental alienation syndrome” is a valid condition recognized by Canadian Courts, whereby children in the middle of on-going custody disputes are essentially programmed by one parent, the “loved parent”, to reject and despise the other parent, the “hated parent”. Tactics used by a parent can include both conscious and sub-conscious tactics to “poison” or “brainwash” a child’s mind against the other parent.

Several years ago in Ontario an Ontario Superior Court Judge fined a woman \$10,000.00 for “poisoning” the minds of her children against their loving father. Specifically, the woman had repeatedly failed to comply with several court orders which required her to facilitate contact between the children and their father. The Court could have awarded sole custody of the children to the father

but acknowledged that such action was inappropriate since the youngest child now 16 was “so attached to the mother.” This sad case amply demonstrates, once the emotional and psychological damage is done to the child, there is no force, legal or otherwise, strong enough to force a child to maintain a loving relationship with the other parent.

What I find most troubling is the similarity between this Ontario case and the fact that Basinger is apparently facing trial on twelve charges of criminal contempt relating to alleged breaches of access orders between Baldwin and his daughter. While I have no way of knowing whether or not she will be found guilty of these charges, or whether Basinger’s attitude or actions constitute “parental alienation syndrome”, there is something about which I am absolutely certain. Their daughter has suffered and will continue to suffer emotionally and psychologically until such time as her parents decide to put their daughter’s interests ahead of their own. And, as every self respecting pig knows well, those who persist in throwing mud at others should expect to wear some of it. 🐷