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Shining Hope

The "*Shining Hope*" newsletter offers valuable resources and support to families facing child abduction and parental alienation. Our publication provides uplifting and informative messages to parents dealing with the abduction of their children, fostering a strong and supportive community throughout their difficult journey. Stay informed and up-to-date with the latest news, events, and pressing issues through our comprehensive and timely newsletter.



Donate now at [STL](https://www.stl.org)'s official website! Your support brings kids **HOME!**

Bi-Weekly Parent Support Zoom Call: Email contactshinethelight@gmail.com for dates and the link to join.

Photo of the Month



Reflections & Quotes

"Hopeful is the heart that persists, even when the path is obscured by darkness."
Inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien

A Mother's Resilient Struggle

In March 2022, Mandy's life was abruptly disrupted when parental abduction ambushed her world. Left to face her worst nightmare, she found herself thrust into a heart-wrenching battle for the return of her two young boys, Zayn Mohamed (5 years) and Kareem Mohamed (3 years). While enduring 687 days without any contact with her sons, Mandy Kelly, a resilient 37-year-old from Dundalk, Co Louth, tirelessly advocates for the Irish government's intervention.

Mandy's crisis began when her Egyptian husband, Ramy Gamal Maamoun Mohamed, brought the family back home for a visit. Ramy unleashed a storm of threats and demands, leaving her shaken and ultimately taking the children from her arms. Ms. Kelly was left emotionally shattered, fearing for her safety. Additionally, grappling with language barriers, differing legal procedures, and cultural norms, she had no choice but to return home.
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A Mother's Resilient Struggle Continued

While still in Cairo, Mandy turned to the Irish Consular services, pleading for support. Yet, there was no lifeline extended to these three Irish citizens. Back on the homefront, Mandy was able to bring her case before the High Court of Ireland, and after reviewing the evidence, the court ordered the children to be returned to Ireland *forthwith*. The family has yet to see any bi-lateral agreement between the two countries.

In the U.S. State Department's [2023 Annual Report](#) on International Child Abduction, Egypt was cited for a persistent pattern of noncompliance, notably in failing to facilitate parental access to abducted children. This raises significant concerns about their commitment to international agreements and norms safeguarding parental rights and the child's best interest.

Last month, Ms. Kelly received a letter from the office of the First Lady, [Sabina Higgins](#), stating “it is not possible for the President to offer legal advice or to intervene [...] I am arranging, however, to have your letter referred to the Department of Justice.” Through her advocacy efforts, Mandy hopes to see the Irish government take steps to protect her children.

To Ms. Kelly, the abduction is more than a legal issue: “it's a crime against humanity,” she states. “I truly fear for their emotional and mental health.” Mandy understands the devastating impact it has on her children—stripping away their sense of security and depriving them of an essential bond.

Sadly, Mandy's plight reflects a larger struggle. Parental abduction affects families worldwide,



From left to right: Kareem Mohamed, Mandy Kelly, Zayn Mohamed

with statistics from [The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) showing that there are over 200,000 cases of children abducted by a parent or other family member each year in the U.S. alone. This pervasive issue highlights the urgent need for awareness, advocacy, and support for those dealing with its aftermath.

In tandem with Mandy's courageous fight, international efforts have been underway to address the issue of child abduction in Egypt. Unfortunately, Egypt is a non-Hague country and foreign custody orders are not generally recognized by the Egyptian authorities. With the support of her mediator, [Miceál O' Hurley, J.D., PhD](#), Mandy's fight for justice and reunification remains unwavering.

STL acknowledges that every case represents more than a legal struggle; it is a crisis that disrupts the lives of countless children and parents. We are committed to supporting families facing this unimaginable challenge, families like Mandy, Zayn, and Kareem.

[Tiffany Fontana](#)



DID YOU KNOW

- Originating in the United States, the AMBER Alert system is now used in over 20 countries.
- AMBER Alerts depend on the vital collaboration between law enforcement and community engagement. While law enforcement is essential, community involvement is equally important.
- To learn more and get involved, consider participating in AMBER Alert training. Additional information can be found at NCJTC.

For more information on AMBER Alerts, click [HERE](#).

To contact the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC), click [HERE](#).

Alienating Behaviors and Family Bonds

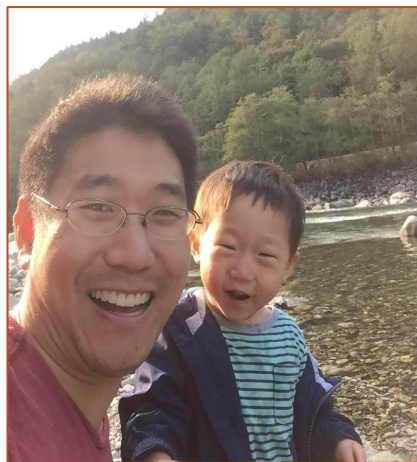
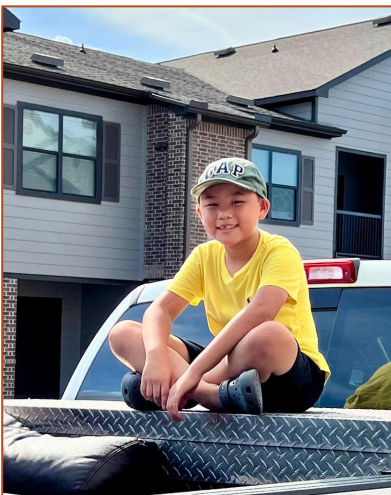
Within family dynamics, there is a phenomenon known as parental alienation (PA). It is a term often heard but not always fully understood. Parental alienation is a manipulative strategy that one parent uses to encourage and cultivate a child's rejection of the other parent.

PA involves a series of alienating behaviors that create emotional distance between a child and one parent, often arising from acrimonious divorces, separations, or parental abductions. Ultimately, this process robs both the child and the targeted parent of the nurturing and joy they once shared—a loss that may persist for years or even a lifetime. Here's a closer look at some alienating behaviors (ABs).

- **Denigration and Distortion:** These involve portraying the targeted parent negatively, creating a distorted image to influence the child's perception.
- **Isolation:** Alienators may limit the child's contact with the targeted parent, creating physical and emotional barriers to hinder a healthy parent-child relationship.
- **Communication Control:** Interfering with the child's communication with the targeted parent, alienators manipulate the child's emotional distance during periods of separation.
- **Undermining Belief Systems:** This tactic involves casting doubt on the child's belief in the love and care of the targeted parent, exploiting the child's vulnerability and trust.

For more on the effects of parental alienation and strategies to cope, click [here](#).

Families We've Served!



Contact Us

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Share your stories, ideas, or feedback with our Editor at info@tiffanyfontana.com. We value your input and look forward to hearing from you!