**From:** Ministers Office <[no-reply@cloud.gov.ie](mailto:no-reply@cloud.gov.ie)>   
**Sent:** Thursday 1 October 2020 10:15  
**To:** Customer Care Counter <[cccounter@SDUBLINCOCO.ie](mailto:cccounter@SDUBLINCOCO.ie)>  
**Subject:** DJE-MO-04859-2020

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Minister’s Reference: DJE-MO-04859-2020

Dear Ms. Reilly,

Thank you for correspondence of 30 July, 2020, on behalf of the South Dublin County Council, to the Minister for Justice and Equality, Ms. Helen McEntee T.D, regarding parental alienation.  The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The issue of parental alienation is highly complex. While there is no specific legislative provision regarding parental alienation in Irish family law, section 246 of the Children Act 2001, provides for an offence of frightening, bullying or threatening a child in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to the child's physical, mental or emotional health or wellbeing. There is also a range of legislative provisions in place for dealing with child welfare particularly regarding the relationship between a child and his/her parents or guardians, providing the framework for a legal response to a wide spectrum of child welfare issues.

The Report of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice and Equality on Reform of the Family Law System, which was published  late last year, considered the issue of parental alienation among a broad range of issues in the area of family law.  All of the recommendations in the report are currently being examined by the Department of Justice and Equality.

I hope that this information is of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick McCabe

Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice and Equality