**Glucklich, Talia (PS3-B)**

**Spotlighting Children's Perceptions of Parental Conflict Against a Backdrop of Child Maltreatment Allegations**

The phenomenon of child maltreatment allegations in the context of high-intensity parental conflict is an understudied field. The proposed presentation wishes to spotlight the intersection of these two phenomena by focusing on the narratives of children who were referred for forensic investigations following alleged child maltreatment, against a backdrop of documented parental conflict. The sample includes 40 children, ages 6-14, who were referred to child forensic interviewers in Israel following alleged physical or sexual abuse by a parent. For all of these 40 children, there was additional documented material indicating high-intensity parental conflict. Thematic analysis was conducted on all of the children's narratives so as to obtain their perceptions and experiences. The findings allowed for a unique exploration of the phenomenon of child maltreatment allegations in the context of high-intensity parental conflict. The children addressed in their narratives the difficulties they had in maintaining relationships with both parents and provided a glimpse of the pressure they had endured, both from their parents and their extended families, to take sides. Moreover, the children expressed how difficult it was for them to cooperate with the child forensic interviewers, due to fears of escalating the chaos they had already experienced with their parents. The main conclusions to be discussed in the presentation will address the multifaceted nature of this phenomenon and the challenges faced by both the welfare and legal systems.

Key words: child maltreatment; high-intensity parental conflict; forensic interviews

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