RECOGNIZING WHEN YOUR BUTTONS ARE BEING PUSHED

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INTRODUCTION

• Statutory Responsibility. Investigate and advocate for best interests.

• Distractions from primary responsibility.

• Desperate times call for desperate measures from otherwise stable parents.

• Sometimes mental illness is involved.

• Early recognition is the key.

• Not limited to parents.
• The Passive Aggressive
  – Passive-aggressive behavior is the indirect expression of hostility, such as through procrastination, sarcasm, stubbornness, sullenness, or deliberate or repeated failure to accomplish requested tasks for which one is (often explicitly) responsible. (Wikepedia)
Personality Types

• The Manipulator
  – Tries to make you feel like the situation is your fault.
  – Uses the children to make the other parent look bad.
  – What about me? Tries to make you feel guilty for the effect your position has on them.
Personality Types

• The Aggressive Guy
  – Violates your personal space.
  – Raises his voice on the phone.
  – Unnecessarily refers to his violent past.
  – He has connections.
  – You will never work in this town again.
  – Women, too.
Personality Types

• The Free Market Guy
  – My favorite.
  – I am paying your fees.
  – I will give you $\text{(Fill In The Blank)}$.
  – I/my lawyer will get you appointed on other good cases.
Personality Types

• Perfect Parent a/k/a The Overprotector
  – “He lets him ride a bike!”
  – “She does it wrong.”
  – God’s gift.
  – Acts like she invented the job.
ARDC

• No statistics.

• Most complaints custody-related.

• Almost never go past initial letter.

• Never give in!