# Proclamation

## By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

***WHEREAS,*** *Strong family relationships constitute the foundation of our community; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *Alienating behaviors are frequently present in high-conflict divorces, separations, and asymmetrical custody arrangements; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *Behaviors such as speaking negatively about a parent to, or in front of, a child and interfering with parenting time and communication can not only destroy the bond between a loving parent and child, but can cause a child mental and emotional harm, as such alienating tactics are confusing, frightening, and rob children of their sense of security; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *Parental alienation takes advantage of the innocent and impressionable, depriving children of their right to freely love and be loved by both parents and extended family; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *Mental professionals agree that the negative effects of parental alienation can follow a child into adulthood with tragic consequences; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *Approximately 40,000 children in the State of Alabama are subjected to child custody determination in 2012; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *Parental Alienation Prevention Week is intended to increase the knowledge and understanding of this problem to help Alabamians, institutions, the legal and mental health community, leaders to better identify and combat such abusive behavior to children.*

***NOW, THEREFORE,*** *I, Bill Gillespie, Jr., Mayor of the City of Prattville do hereby proclaim the week of April 20 through April 26, 2014, as*

## *PARENTAL ALIENATION PREVENTION WEEK*

*And April 25, 2014 as*

## *PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY*

*In Prattville, Alabama.*

*Given Under My Hand and the Seal of the City of Prattville on the 1st day of April 2014.*

Bill Gillespie Jr.

*Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr.*