



Samuel J. Brown

Hillman, Brown & Darrow, PA

Q: What do you do if the custodial parent turns your child against you?

A: React quickly, be observant and watch for these signs: Child doesn't communicate with you, refuses visitation or treats you as if you don't exist; eliminates you from social networking sites; doesn't provide activity information; other parent discourages visitation. When you see these signs, you must react: Stay in contact and have a witness to the interaction; go to their school, attend functions, talk to teachers; become involved in their activities; get a good psychologist for reunification who understands alienation; find an

attorney who has knowledge in alienation cases. By reacting quickly you can help your child, your relationship and stop the trauma. Sometimes you need court intervention. File suit for interference with visitation rights. Ask for money damages from the other parent. Lost communication with a child is heartbreaking. Continue to be a part of your child's life and their activities. Be a parent even when they aren't with you. Be proactive and not reactionary.



Michael P. Darrow

Hillman, Brown & Darrow

Q: How do you protect yourself if you are selling property on eBay to someone across the country and want to make sure you get paid?

A: A client placed an \$11,000 Rolex on eBay. The winning bidder was instructed to wire the funds into the seller's account at Bank of America; then the watch would be sent UPS. The seller notified BofA of the transaction and that he would not ship until he had the money. Bank of America in Maryland failed to notify BofA in San Francisco. The California buyer deposited 11 fictitious money orders. The Maryland bank informed the seller that funds were available, so seller shipped the Rolex. Five days later, BofA took

\$11,000 from seller's account because the money orders were fraudulent. Seller demanded the bank replace the funds and they refused. Seller sued the bank for negligence. Court gave seller the money. The bank should have known that the seller wanted cleared funds before shipping the Rolex. The bank has a duty to properly investigate for the seller. When selling on eBay (unless you use PayPal) make sure you get confirmation that the money is really there.