

Checklist of Applied Knowledge  
Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings

Applied Constructs:	Description	Rating
Ethical Standards	No reference to Principle D, Standards 2.04, 2.01, 9.01 relative to custody evaluations	deficient
Assessment Constructs	Used terms “reliability” and validity” but did not apply to custody evaluations (i.e., inter-rater reliability and validity of custody evaluations).  Used multi-method-multi-trait, but misapplied the construct to justify a shot-gun fishing expedition approach of an unfocused assessment.	deficient
Family Systems: Constructs	None used	deficient
Attachment Constructs:	None used	deficient
Trauma Constructs:	Used term “trauma-informed, but no trauma constructs used in application	deficient
Personality Disorder Constructs	None used	deficient
Child Development Constructs	None used	deficient
Cognitive-Behavioral Constructs	None used	deficient
Psychoanalytic Constructs	None used	deficient
Diagnostic Constructs	None used	Deficient

Dr. Childress Summary:

There was no knowledge from any domain of professional psychology evident by application in proposed APA Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations (authors unknown 1/21).

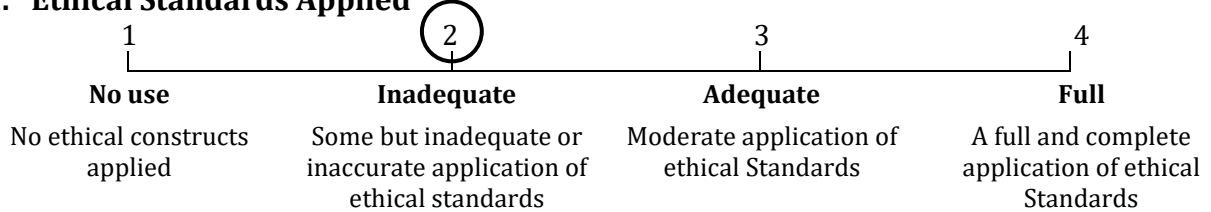
Ethics: Standards of the APA ethics code were recited but were not self-applied to the practice of custody evaluations. There was no discussion regarding the specific “established scientific and professional knowledge” of professional psychology required for competence (attachment, family systems therapy, complex trauma, personality disorders, child development, thought disorder pathology, the risk assessment of child psychological abuse) nor was the application of established scientific and professional knowledge modeled by the “Working Group” in the Guidelines.

Trauma: The term “trauma-informed” (and “scientific”) were used several times in superficial ways, with no further elaboration or citation of trauma research, knowledge, or literature.

Forensic: The “Working Group” relied solely on opinion-piece citations from the forensic literature and citations of other various Guidelines, and there was no evidence in application of any knowledge from any domain of professional psychology.

# Applied Domains of Knowledge

## 1. Ethical Standards Applied

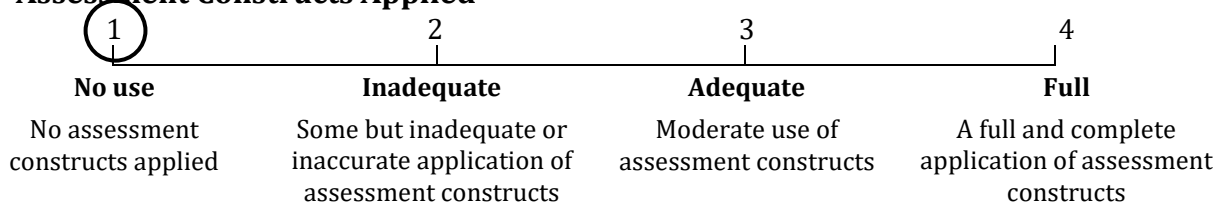


<u>Constructs Used</u>	Yes	No
Principle D Justice.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Standard 2.04 & 2.01.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Standard 9.01.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 3.04.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Duty to protect.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The Guidelines themselves are in apparent violation of Standards 2.04 and 9.01 of the APA ethics code (and perhaps Standard 2.01 if they do not know any of this knowledge).

Standards from the APA ethics code were recited but not self-applied to the practice of custody evaluations. Because custody evaluations do not apply the “established scientific and professional knowledge” of professional psychology (a violation of Standard 2.04 Bases for Scientific and Professional Judgments), their opinions contained in their recommendations, reports, and diagnostic or evaluative statements, including forensic testimony,” are not based on information (attachment, family systems, personality disorders, complex trauma, child development, DSM-5 & ICD-10 diagnostic systems) and techniques (Mental Status Exam of thought and perception, Functional Behavioral Analysis) “sufficient to substantiate their findings (in violation of Standard 9.01. Nor were the equal access and equal quality provisions of Principle D Justice self-applied to the practice of custody evaluations.

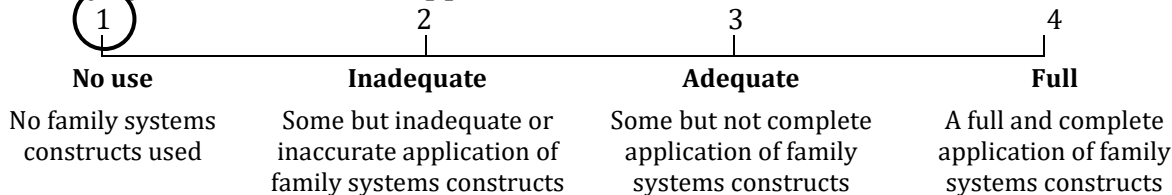
## 2. Assessment Constructs Applied



<u>Constructs Used</u>	Yes	No
Inter-rater reliability.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Construct validity.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Predictive validity.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operational definitions for constructs..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Timeliness of findings.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

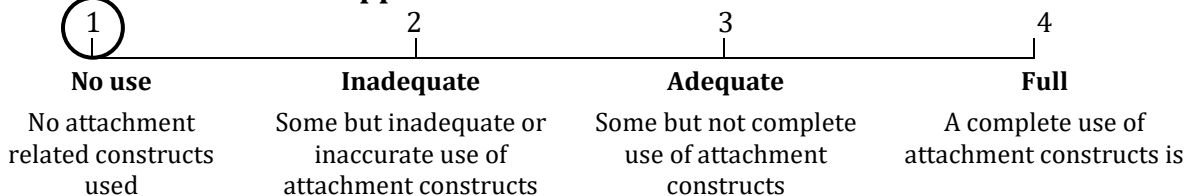
The terms “reliability” and “validity” were used but not self-applied to the practice of custody evaluations. There was no discussion of inter-rater reliability of custody evaluations or of any study evidencing any validity for the conclusions and recommendations from custody evaluations.

### 3. Family Systems Constructs Applied



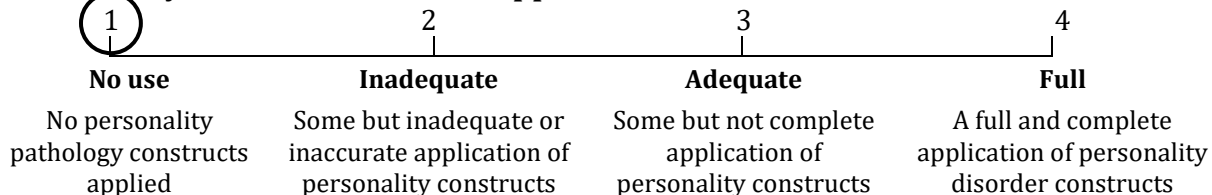
<u>Constructs Used</u>	Yes	No
Triangulation.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cross-Generational Coalition .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emotional Cutoff.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Differentiation of Self .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Multigenerational Transmission .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inverted Hierarchy .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 4. Attachment Constructs Applied



<u>Constructs Used</u>	Yes	No
Description of Attachment .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Insecure Attachment Patterns .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emotional Dysregulation .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Breach-and-Repair Sequence .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Role-Reversal .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 5. Personality Disorder Constructs Applied



<u>Constructs Used</u>	Yes	No
Splitting .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Absence of Empathy .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emotional Dysregulation .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
False "Abuse" Allegations .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Power, Control, & Domination .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 6. Trauma Constructs Applied

1	2	3	4
No use	Inadequate	Adequate	Full
No trauma constructs applied	Some but inadequate or inaccurate application of trauma constructs	Some but not complete application of trauma constructs	A full and complete application of trauma constructs

<u>Constructs Used</u>	Yes	No
Persecutory Delusion .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trauma Reenactment Pattern .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PTSD Identified and discussed.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PTSD Criterion discussed.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phobic Anxiety discussed .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 7. Child Developmental Constructs Applied

1	2	3	4
No use	Inadequate	Adequate	Full
No child development constructs applied	Some but inadequate or inaccurate application of child development constructs	Moderate application of child development constructs	A full and complete application of child development constructs

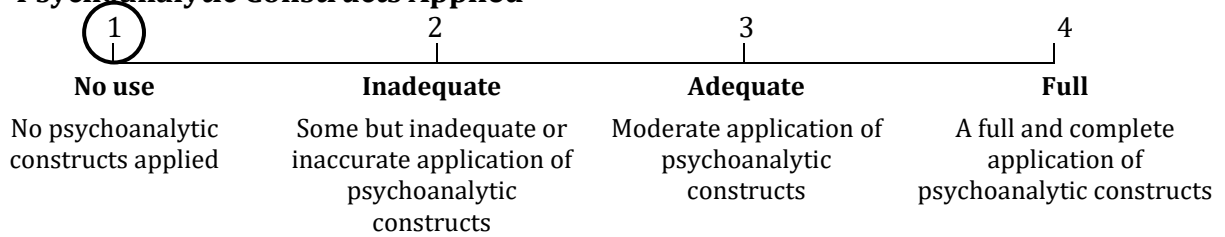
<u>Constructs Used</u>	Yes	No
Intersubjectivity .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Co-Construction .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Use-Dependent Development .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Breach-and-Repair Sequence .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Age-Gender Neuro-Maturation .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 8. Cognitive-Behavioral Constructs Applied

1	2	3	4
No use	Inadequate	Adequate	Full
No cognitive-behavioral constructs applied	Some but inadequate or inaccurate application of cognitive-behavioral constructs	Moderate application of cognitive-behavioral constructs	A full and complete application of cognitive-behavioral constructs

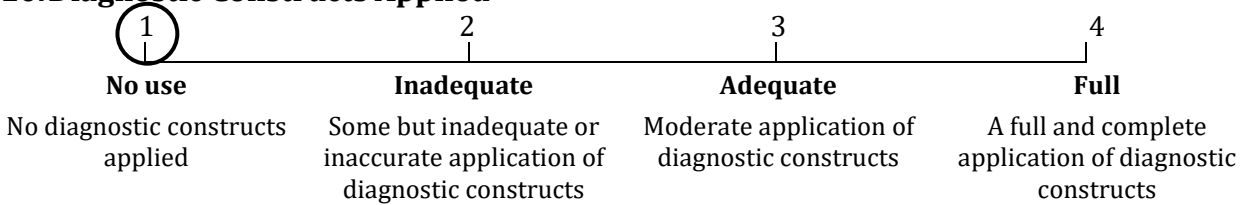
<u>Constructs Used</u>	Yes	No
Schemas.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applied Behavioral Analysis.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Functional Behavioral Analysis.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Behavior chain interview.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome measures and data.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 9. Psychoanalytic Constructs Applied



<u>Constructs Used</u>	Yes	No
Empathic failure .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Regulatory self-object.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Countertransference.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Self-structure development.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The transference.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 10. Diagnostic Constructs Applied



<u>Constructs Used</u>	Yes	No
Thought disorders.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personality disorders.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Child psychological abuse.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FDIA and false allegations.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MSE of thought and perception.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>