

Re: Dr. Sullivan Standard 1.04



Inbox x



Dr. Matt Sullivan

Sat, Feb 8, 7:23 AM



to me, drrobindeutsch, marsha.pruett@email.smith.edu, leslie@lesliedrozdpd.com, jm@jmpd.com, drpeg ▾

Dear Dr. Childress,

We wanted to acknowledge receipt of your separate emails to each of us to notify us informally of your concerns regarding possible ethical violations by our group as it relates to our recent training on Advanced Issues in Family Law: Parent-Child Contact Problems we conducted from January 12-16, 2025 for the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. We appreciate that pursuant to your required obligations under Standard 1.04 of the APA ethics code you are informally engaging with us about your concerns. We want you to know we take your concerns seriously and are reviewing what you described in your letter carefully. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to you about them. We will plan to respond to your concerns as a group in the next couple of weeks.

Sincerely,

Drs. Leslie Drozd, Robin Deutsch, John Moran, Marsha Pruet, Matthew Sullivan and Peggie Ward

February 28, 2025

Dear Dr. Childress,

This letter is a response to the individual letters you sent to us on February 3, 2025.

We are disappointed that you have chosen to address what amounts to differences in the selection of social science theories and methodologies by framing our differences as ethical issues. We have carefully reviewed your concerns and have the following responses:

2.04 Bases for Scientific and Professional Judgments

Psychologists' work is grounded in established scientific and professional knowledge within the discipline.

The training was sufficiently grounded in peer-reviewed social science, including research authored by our faculty, as well as generally accepted practice within the field relevant to the topics presented. Furthermore, our program was reviewed and approved by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Continuing Education Committee, which determined that the content met the requirements for accreditation as a continuing education provider for the American Psychological Association.

2.01 Boundaries of Competence

(a) Psychologists provide services, teach, and conduct research with populations and in areas only within the boundaries of their competence, based on their education, training, supervised experience, consultation, study, or professional experience.

AFCC, the leading international, interdisciplinary organization of family court professionals, invited us to conduct this training in recognition of our individual and combined expertise in this area of practice. In each module of the training the presenter's education, training, and professional experience satisfies the requirements necessary to meet the ethical standards in the training as set forth by the American Psychological Association (APA). Additionally, the significant collaborative preparation bringing in our diverse education, training, and experience further strengthened the expertise behind the program, ensuring its depth, rigor, and adherence to the highest professional standards.

9.01 Bases for Assessment(a) Psychologists base the opinions contained in their recommendations, reports, and diagnostic or evaluative statements, including forensic testimony, on information and techniques sufficient to substantiate their findings. (See also Standard 2.04, Bases for Scientific and Professional Judgments.)

The concerns raised are addressed in our previous response. The learning objectives of the training were developed using information and techniques grounded in well-

established social science research. The content was carefully designed to ensure that all presented material had a sufficient empirical basis.

We are familiar with your work and appreciate your contribution to this difficult issue. Our response to your concerns clearly outlines our position.

Sincerely,

Leslie Drozd, Ph.D.

Robin Deutsch, Ph.D., ABPP

John (Jack) Moran, Ph.D.

Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D., ABPP

Matthew Sullivan, Ph.D.

Peggie (Margaret) Ward, Ph.D.

