

## **Child Custody Evaluations – Level 1 (9:00 to 5:00)**

### **I. Introduction (9:00-9:30)**

- a. Presenter
- b. Participants
- c. Topic
- d. Objectives

### **II. Child Custody Evaluations – How Is It Different from Clinical Work?**

- a. Who is the Client?
- b. What is the evaluator's role?
- c. What are the evaluator's responsibilities?
- d. What are the litigant's expectations?

### **III. Introduction to Professional Guidelines and Related Statutes (9:30-10:30)**

- a. Break into small groups and each group prioritize the elements in the major guidelines and statute
- b. AFCC
  - i. Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation
  - ii. Guidelines for Brief Focused Assessment
- c. APA
  - i. APA 2009 Guidelines
  - ii. APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct 2003
  - iii. APA Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists 1991
- d. FL § 61.13: Dissolution of Marriage; Support; Time Sharing From Child Custody to Parenting Plan

### **Break (10:30 to 10:45)**

Groups Report (45 mins.)

- e. AACAP: Practice Parameters For Child Custody Evaluation
- f. NASW: Practice Guidelines In Child Custody Evaluations for Licensed Clinical Social Workers 2005

Participants will perform a matching task between FL Admin Code, Rules and Statutes and selected phrases from each. (30 to 45 mins.)

- g. FL Admin Code 64B4-7.006: Requirements for Evaluations of Minors for the Purpose of Addressing Custody, Residence or Visitation Disputes
- h. FL Admin Code 64B4-10.003: Psychotherapist-Client Relationship
- i. FL Admin Code 64B19-16.003: Sexual Misconduct in the Practice of Psychology
- j. FL Admin Code 64B19-18.004: Use of Test Instruments.
- k. 64B19-19.005 Releasing Psychological Records
- l. 64B19-19.003 Maintenance and Retention of Records
- m. 65E-9.013 Restraint, Seclusion, and Time-Out
- n. 64B19-18.007 Requirements for Forensic Psychological Evaluations of Minors for the Purpose of Addressing Custody, Residence or Visitation Disputes
- o. FL Rules of Family Law: Rule 12.253 Evaluation of Minor Child
- p. FL Admin Code 65E-9.012 Rights of Children
- q. FL Admin Code 65E-9.013 Restraint, Seclusion and Time-Out
- r. FL §394.459 Right of Patients
- s. FL Rules of Civil Procedure: Rule 1.360 Examination of Persons (1 hour)

### **IV. Components/Elements of an Evaluation Part I**

- a. Court Orders (15 mins.)

### **Lunch Break – 1 hour (12:00 to 1:00)**

- b. Informed Consent with limitations of evaluator's role (What an informed consent looks like now that you know your role?) (1:00 to 1:30)
  - i. Not a therapist
  - ii. Not an advocate for either party
  - iii. Not a mediator
  - iv. No confidentiality
  - v. Primary focus/concern is the child(ren)s' best interest
  - vi. Cannot give recommendations to the litigants about anything
  - vii. Will report suspected abuse of children and elderly
  - viii. Will prepare a report that each party will probably see
- c. Interviews – (1:30 TO 2:00)
  - i. Structured - go over the questionnaires
  - ii. Unstructured - my first interview is tell me your side of the story
- d. Psychological Assessments (2:15-2:30)
  - i. To assess or not to assess? That's a good question!
  - ii. What is the purpose of the assessments?
  - iii. What assessments to give?

## **V. Rules of Evidence (2:30-3:00)**

- a. Frye
- b. Daubert

## **Break (3:00-3:15)**

## **VI. Components/Elements of an Evaluation Part II (3:15-5:00)**

- a. Observations of each parent and each child (15 mins.)
  - i. Safety and Environment
  - ii. General Behavior Toward the Child
  - iii. Teaching and Training
  - iv. Control
  - v. Child-Initiated Behavior
- b. Home Visit (15 mins.)
  - i. Announced
  - ii. Unannounced
  - iii. Assess living environment
  - iv. Observe family interactions
- c. Collateral Informants: Those with significant contact of the litigants) (15 mins.)
  - i. Informed consent
  - ii. Structured interview/Questionnaire
    - 1. baby sitters
    - 2. day care workers
    - 3. friends/neighbors
    - 4. former spouses
  - iii. Professional contacts unstructured interview
    - 1. therapists
    - 2. DCF
    - 3. law enforcement
    - 4. medical docs
    - 5. teachers/guidance counselors/administrators
  - iv. Have to give weight to the input from each collateral informant
- d. Prepare Report provide a sample (15 mins.)
  - i. Elements of the Final Report
  - ii. Share Sample Report

- e. Notify Court and Attorneys

## **VII. Putting It All Together**

- a. Developmental Research Related to Child Custody
- b. Integrating the Data/Information/ show Custody Report Pro power point
- c. Parenting Plan & Timesharing Forms (FLCOURTS.com)

## **VIII. Summary, Follow-Up & Evaluation of Workshop**

**To register click here**