

TEXAS AFCC



CONFERENCE



www.TexasAFCC.org



2019 Texas Chapter AFCC Annual Conference Agenda

Friday 3/29/19

7:30am to 8:30am
Check-in /Exhibits Open

8:45am
Introduction from Texas Chapter
President Rebecca Smith

9:00am
Dr. Stanley Brodsky
"The Expert, Expert Witness"

10:30am to 11:00am
Break/Exhibits

12:15pm to 2:15pm
Break for lunch / Exhibits

2:15pm
Dr. Stanley Brodsky and Volunteers Mock
Trial

3:45pm to 4:00pm
Break/Exhibits

5:30pm
Adjourn

7:30pm to 9:30pm
Networking
Local Pour at Hughes Landing

Saturday 3/30/19

7:30am to 7:45am
Networking /Exhibits Open

7:45am to 8:00am
Introduction and Updates
Rebecca Smith

8:00am
Steven Bradley and Kevin Dorsey
Our Family Wizard
"Implications of Technology and Social Media
for Domestic Violence and Family Court
Cases"

9:30am to 9:45am
Break / Exhibits

11:15am to 11:30am
Break /Exhibits

12:30pm
Adjourn

Nearby Restaurants

Hughes Landing:

1900 Hughes Landing Blvd

California Pizza Kitchen
832-791-4900

Del Frisco's Grille
281-465-0300

Escalante's
281-292-7800

Fogo de Chao
281-298-4200

Starbucks Coffee
832-702-4812

Market Street

9595 Six Pines Drive

Berryhill Baja Grill
281-298-8226

Grotto Ristorante
281-419-4252

Jasper's
281-298-6600

Tommy Bahama Tropical Café
281-292-8669

Starbucks Coffee
281-465-9257

The Woodlands Waterway

Baker Street Pub & Grill
25 Waterway Avenue

Bar Louie
24 Waterway Avenue
281-719-1900
281-362-7431

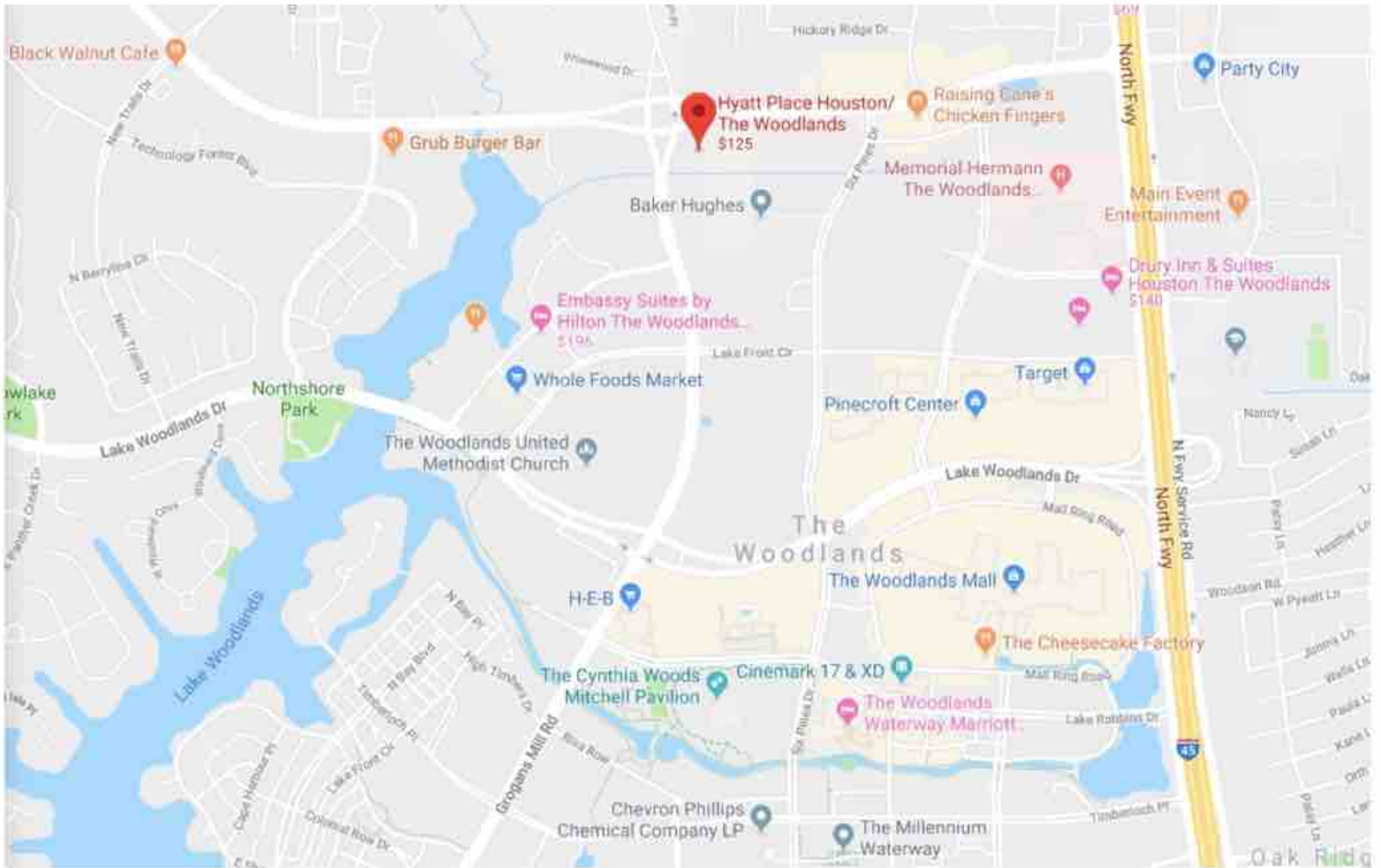
Crush Wine Bar
20 Waterway Avenue
281-362-7874

Goose's Acre
21 Waterway Avenue
281-466-1502

Grimaldi's Brick Oven Pizza
20 Waterway Avenue
281-465-3500

Starbucks Coffee
2 Waterway Square Place
832-839-5438

The Woodlands Map of the Area



2019 Texas AFCC Conference

Friday March 29th to Saturday March 30th

The Woodlands, TX

Expert Testimony + Mock Trial

**Friday 6 CLEs/CEUs + APA approved
for Psychologists**

Domestic Violence

Saturday 3 CLEs/CEUs

Friday 3/29/19 -

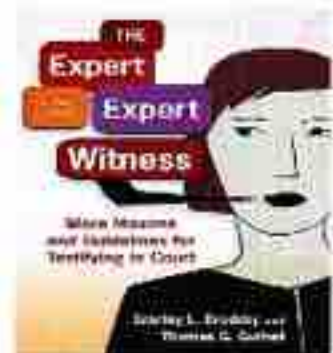
"The Expert, Expert Witness"

Dr. Stanley Brodsky

Testifying in court is a time of anxiety for the first time witnesses and aggressive

cross-examinations are particularly stressful, even for the experienced witness. This workshop

begins by presenting ways of understanding the common problems faced on the witness stand. Drawing on the professional literature, on scientific findings, and on his own experience in court.



Dr. Brodsky will provide techniques and insights for attorneys to enhance their effectiveness for examining the expert witness. Additionally, his workshop will equip attorneys with tools to coach their experts on how to handle the toughest questions.



Dr. Brodsky will also have a couple of local attorneys and experts do a mock trial with direct and cross examinations with an expert witness.

Saturday 3/30/19 -

Title: Implications of Technology and Social Media for Domestic Violence and Family Court Cases

Steven Bradley – Certified Domestic Violence Advocate and Trainer

Kevin Dorsey – OFW Professional Liaison

This interactive workshop will explore the implications of technology in Domestic Violence and Family Court cases. Professionals will learn how batterers use phone technology, social networking and GPS to circumvent injunctions for protection, supervised visitation and child custody. Legal and Mental Health Practitioners will explore how victims of domestic violence can overcome communication issues using mobile and online communication tools, such as the OurFamilyWizard website, designed specifically for high conflict parents.

HOTEL:

Hyatt Place

1909 Research Forest Dr.

The Woodlands, TX 77380

(281)298-4600

Rates \$120 per room for Thursday and Friday night under the group code for the corporate event.

Please call Hyatt Place Reservations at 855-312-7268

and Request the group code G-TXAF

For the website and booking rooms:

On the Hotel Website, please enter the dates of the group and click on "Check Rates".

REGISTRATION:

To register online go to *Eventbrite*

For checks or money orders please complete the [registration form](#) on our website and mail payment to:

Texas Chapter AFCC

4205 Stanford Street

Houston, TX 77006

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CONFERENCE AND AFCC

www.TexasAFCC.org

Title:

"The Expert, Expert Witness"

Description:

Testifying in court is a time of anxiety for the first time witnesses and aggressive cross-examinations are particularly stressful, even for the experienced witness. This workshop begins by presenting ways of understanding the common problems faced on the witness stand. No techniques can take the place of good knowledge and careful preparation, and the foundations of such knowledge and preparation are described. The masterful expert witness knows what to expect in direct examinations and cross-examinations. Drawing on the professional literature, on scientific findings, and on his own experience in court, Dr. Brodsky will present pathways towards reducing anxiety on the witness stand and specific methods for dealing with the most aggressive cross-examinations. This workshop will be didactic in part, but will use a highly interactive format. Participants will have the opportunity to try out the techniques presented for deflecting and mastering cross-examination challenges to their experience, to their thoroughness, to their competency, and to their impartiality.

Presenter:

Stanley Brodsky, PhD

Clinical & Forensic Psychology

Testifying Workshop Outline & Goals:

1. Learn the substantive foundations of testimony
2. Master the common anxiety and fears that are associated with testifying in court
3. Appreciate the nature of nonverbal communication in court and improve the totality of verbal and nonverbal aspects of testimony
4. Be able to anticipate typical patterns of cross-examination
5. Comfortably deal with attorney efforts at intimidation and bullying
6. Know how to respond when areas of lack of knowledge are tapped during cross
7. Learn how to handle surprise attacks
8. Incorporate responsible and professional techniques in testimony
9. Preparation for testimony
10. The direct examination
11. Nonverbal behaviors and communication: Gestures, voice, and posture
12. Handling anxiety about testimony
13. Coping with Cross-Examination 1. General considerations
14. The Push-Pull & The Admit-Deny
15. Answer yes or no
16. Eye Contact, Pace, and Thought
17. Negative Assertions

CASE SUMMARY

The Best v. Best case involves a divorce action. The parties to the suit are Sam Best, age 33, and Mary Best, who is 32. Sam and Mary Best were married September 15, 2007. There are two children of the marriage. Stephanie is nine and Robert is seven. Sam Best attributes the break-up of the marriage to Mary's drug and alcohol use as well as extramarital affairs, both of which have been admitted by Mary Best. Mary Best alleges that Sam Best was physically abusive during their marriage. In the summer of 2015, Sam Best learned that Mary Best was having an affair with one of his employees and that her drug use has extended to crystal meth. The parties attempted counseling but eventually separated September 2, 2015. Mary Best entered the Never Fail Treatment Center. Upon her release she filed for divorce. A hearing for temporary orders was held on February 20, 2016. After each side rested, the court awarded sole legal and physical custody of both children to Sam Best and gave Mary Best supervised visitation every other weekend. In early 2017 Mary Best produced a clean hair strand test and the court lifted the requirement that the visitation be supervised. On November 1, 2017, the court appointed Isaac Newton, Ph.D. to do a child custody evaluation of the parties and the children.

Forensic Psychological Evaluation
Samuel Best v. Mary Best

April 20, 2018

Date of Marriage: September 15, 2007

Date of Separation: September 2, 2015

Mother: Mary Best

DOB: February 24, 1985

Father: Sam Best

DOB: April 13, 1984

Biological Children: Stephanie

DOB: October 18, 2008

AGE: 9 years old

Robert

DOB: June 28, 2010

AGE: 7 years old

Reason for Referral

In an Order signed by the presiding judge of Lancaster County, Isaac Newton, Ph.D. was appointed to conduct a child custody evaluation. Five specific questions to be answered by the child custody evaluator were identified in the court's order.

1. What is the degree, if any, to which the mother's alcohol use affects her ability to effectively parent the minor children?
2. What is the degree, if any, to which the father has been involved in an active campaign to undermine the children's relationship with their mother?
3. What are the parenting attributes of each parent that foster their children's best interests?
4. What are the psychological needs of each child?
5. Which parent is best suited to meet the psychological needs of their children?

Evaluation Procedure

This evaluation included multiple interviews with each parent, multiple interviews with each child, multiple observations of each parent with the children, interviews with collateral witnesses, extensive record review, and administration, scoring, and interpretation of psychological tests.

I began the evaluation on November 16, 2017.

November 17, 2017 & November 18, 2017

Wednesday

Interview and testing of Sam	3.0 hours
Interview and testing of Mary	3.0 hours
Observations at Mary's home	3.0 hours
Interview with Robert	1.0 hour

	Interview with Stephanie	1.0 hour
Thursday	Interview with Mary	2.0 hours
	Observations at Sam's home	3.0 hours
	Interview with Stephanie	1.0 hour
	Interview with Robert	1.0 hour
Friday	Interview with Mary	2.0 hours
	Interview of Sam	2.0 hours
<u>December 1, 2017 and December 2, 2017</u>		
Wednesday	Interview with Mary	3.0 hours
Thursday	Interview with Sam	3.0 hours
<u>December 8, 2017 and December 9, 2017</u>		
Wednesday	Interview with Sam	3.0 hours
	Interview with Mary	2.0 hours
	Observations at Mary's home	3.0 hours
	Interview with Robert	1.5 hours
	Interview with Stephanie	1.5 hours
Thursday	Interview with Mary	1.0 hour
	Observations at Sam's home	3.0 hours
	Interview with Stephanie	1.0 hour
	Interview with Robert	1.0 hour

Collateral Records Reviewed for This Evaluation

The following documents were reviewed for this evaluation:

1. Original pleadings for divorce filed September 22, 2015;
2. Sam Best's Motion for Temporary Orders;
3. Transcript of Hearing dated February 20, 2016;
4. Transcript of Hearing dated January 23, 2017;
5. Summary of parenting observations/supervised access from February 2016 – January 2017;
6. Treatment records from Never Fail Treatment Center and interview with Dr. Strangelove (Mary's treating physician);
7. Treatment records of marital therapy provided to the Bests by Sigmund Freud, M.D.;
8. Treatment records of family therapy provided to Mary and Stephanie, by Anna Freud, M.D.;
9. Medical Center records from General Hospital regarding Mary's admissions on April 9, 2015 and November 7, 2015;

10. Drug testing information provided by Seldom Wrong forensic drug testing service indicating that Mary has tested negative for all drugs based on hair specimen analysis;
11. Educational file and telephonic interview with Stephanie's second and third grade teachers at Pink Hill Elementary School;
12. Educational file and telephonic interview with Robert's kindergarten and first grade teachers from Pink Hill Elementary School;
13. Mary Hartman, neighbor of Mary who has observed the children with their mother;
14. B.J. Honeycutt, neighbor of Mary who has observed the children with their mother;
15. Robert Petrie, neighbor of Sam who has observed the children with their father;
16. Richie Cunningham, neighbor of Sam who has observed the children with their father;
17. Joseph Best, Sam's father, who has observed the parents and who has observed each parent with the children;
18. Rhonda White, Mary's mother, who observed the parents and who observed each parent with the children;
19. Reggie White, Mary's stepfather, who observed the parents and who observed each parent with the children;
20. Reverend Fred Flintstone, pastor of their church and extended family member, who has observed the family prior to the divorce, observed Mary and the children since her rehabilitation;
21. Pastor Barney Ruble who has known Sam for more than 25 years and who has observed Sam with the children;
22. Sue Best, Sam's mother, who has observed the parents and who has observed each parent with the children;
23. Tom Seaver, Robert's soccer and baseball coach since pre-K.

Methods and Procedures

The following data were obtained in an effort to identify the most reliable and relevant set of data to be used in understanding the *Best v. Best* custody dispute. Data were obtained from multiple interviews of the parties, their children, and collateral sources, extensive record review, psychological testing and observation of each parent with the children.

Convergent validity refers to the degree to which independent sources of information point to or converge on the same conclusion. Utilizing a forensic methodology which includes obtaining information from different sources such as interviews, test data, record review, and direct observation provides a means of examining convergent validity. There is a direct relationship between the number of independent data sources converging on the same conclusion and the confidence that the conclusion is within a reasonable degree of psychological certainty.

As a general rule, information from two different data sources provides less powerful support for a conclusion than information from three different data sources which is less powerful than support from four information sources. The nature and source of information also need to be considered, with some types of data being assigned greater weight (meaning) than others.

Psychological Tests and Measures Administered

Measures of Psychopathology and Personality Functioning

Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory - 2	(MMPI-2)
Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory - III	(MCMI III)

Measure of Parent's Perception of Relationship with Children and/or Other Parent

Parent Child Relationship Inventory	(PCRI)
Parenting Stress Index	(PSI)

Interview and Observational Data from Stephanie and Robert

Stephanie and Robert were interviewed individually and with each parent over the course of several hours. Stephanie described her relationship with her father as "pretty cool." She indicated that her father is happy and fun most of the time. She enjoys spending time with him, especially when they are able to spend time alone and talk about her friends and school. She said that her father gets her up for school most mornings. She described feeling tired in the mornings but she also said that her father takes her to her favorite restaurant most mornings where she orders "the best breakfast in the world." Her favorite breakfast is scrambled eggs and cheese. She said that her grandfather meets her at the restaurant for breakfast. Sometimes her father takes her to school and sometimes her grandfather takes her to school.

Stephanie also talked about going to school in the morning with her brother. She loves time with her father, brother, and grandfather eating at the restaurant. Stephanie said that going to school is more fun after the family time at the restaurant.

After school, Stephanie and her brother often take the school bus to her father's business where they complete their homework and spend time helping dad around the office. Stephanie talked about special times that she has shared with her father during these after school hours. Again, she focused attention on the enjoyment of talking with her father about her school activities, especially the friends she plays with at school. Stephanie attends daycare on those days when she is unable to go to her father's business after school. She did not know why some days she goes to her dad's office and on other days she goes to her the daycare. She described many friends at daycare and indicated that she enjoys time at daycare with her friends and teachers.

Stephanie explained that when she prepares to have parenting time with her mother that her father helps her pack. They sit together and talk about what she will bring to her mother's home. Together they make a game out of folding clothing and placing them in the travel case. Stephanie said that her father often talks about how much fun that she will have at her mother's home. She also noted that when she is dropped off at her mother's home that neither parent speaks to each other. She said that her parents don't talk to each other because they are angry over some "bad things." Stephanie was unable to explain what "bad things" caused the anger between the parents but she clearly understood that her parents are angry with each other.

Stephanie recalled a “very scary” time when her mom and dad fought when she was present. “I don’t know how I remember this but I know that my mom’s boyfriend called grandpa and said that he was going to beat up my dad. That really scares me because I love him and don’t want him to get hurt. Anyway, mom and dad were yelling at each other because mom’s yucky boyfriend told grandpa he was going to hurt my dad. Grandpa drove over. I remember this part really good. Grandpa came over and popped that boyfriend. Dad told me that grandpa got off ‘without charges.’ I don’t know what that means but I think that the police did not have to punish grandpa.”

Stephanie talked about her understanding of her parents’ divorce. She said that she knows that her mom had another boyfriend when she was married to her dad. She doesn’t remember who told her but she remembers telling people that she saw her mom in bed with another man who was not her father. “Mom keeps telling people that I never saw her with someone else. I did. She is lying.” When queried further, Stephanie said that she can’t remember whether she actually saw a man with her mother or whether someone told her about this.

Stephanie talked about her relationship with her mother as more distant than her relationship with her father. She said that her mother is a lot of fun and does crazy things that make her laugh. She also said that there are times when her mom stays in bed, forgets to do things that she promised to do, and often smells like a bad type of perfume.

Stephanie explained that she is in charge of her brother when her father isn’t around. She takes seriously her role as the older sister. Although she enjoys time with her father’s girlfriend and her daughter, Stephanie prefers time with only her family members.

Interviews with Robert

Robert described many of the same morning routines as Stephanie and also supported her view that the family breakfasts at the restaurant before school were a lot of fun. He said that he loves going to the same school as his sister. He has a lot of friends at school and is presently involved in soccer.

He described his father as being fun when he isn’t at work. He views his father and his girlfriend as people who always make him laugh. He said that he can’t remember seeing his father unhappy or grumpy very often. He said that his favorite food was ice cream with hot fudge and that he loved sharing the really big ice cream sundaes from Friendly’s restaurant.

Robert said that he loves bedtime stories, especially stories about Super Heroes. He talked about his favorite pajamas and jumped up during the interview and ran over to the closet to show me his Superman PJ.

Robert reported that most of the time he is good but sometimes he does things that upset his father. Most of the time, he is punished by being placed in time out. Occasionally, Robert receives a spanking from his father. He said that his father has spanked him on his bottom one or two times. He said that the spanking never really hurt but that he was disappointed in himself for not following the rules better. He said that he does not recall seeing his father spank his sister.

Robert described time with his mother as fun, too. Although he does not see her as often, he knows that he can call her whenever he wants. He said that his mother “let’s me do whatever I want more than my dad. Dad has more rules.” He said that his mother often cries when they arrive for their visits and cries when they leave. “That makes me really sad. Mom cries and that makes me cry on the inside. I don’t want to show dad because he will think that I don’t want to spend time with him. That’s not it. I just hate that I make my mom cry.”

Robert described a contract between the two homes. At his father’s home, he has chores and engages in a wide variety of activities, both with friends and with the family. At his mother’s home, he is able to play video games more frequently with fewer chores and activities. He plays with his friends less frequently when he is with his mother.

He has observed his mother staying in bed for periods of time in the morning after he and his sister have gotten up for the day. Sometimes his mother has a funny smell but he doesn’t know what it is. He worries that his mother is alone and that she is really sad without him.

Evaluation of Sam Best

In this section, I describe my interviews with Sam and the results of his psychological testing. Much of the interview description is written in present tense, reflecting the contemporaneous notes taking at the time of the interview.

Sam began the interview by focusing on his concern about Mary’s drinking. He talked about her affairs during the marriage and how such actions violated the trust that he held for her. He views her actions as examples of placing her needs above the needs of the family. He believes that she continues to place her needs first. He cites as examples the ways in which she tells the children how sad she is that they are Sam’s custodial care. She tells them that she is sad every day of her life and that she will fight in court every day for the rest of her life until she gets her children back.

Sam describes the children’s reactions to Mary’s statements. He views Stephanie as being somewhat less affected by Mary’s statements with her while he views Robert as being more affected by her statements. Sam has spent time talking with each child about what the judge told both parents about keeping the children out of the middle of their adult conflict. He reported that each time that Mary tells the children something that is untrue, he feels the need to explain to the children how their mother is misrepresenting the truth. He has shown them court papers and has had them listen to audiotapes of their mother’s voice mails to their father. Some of the voice mail messages are “mean spirited and ugly.”

Sam described concerns about Mary’s history of alcohol and drug use. He explained that she began her drug use sometime in 2013. Mary had taken a trip to Alaska and upon her return, she began using marijuana and crystal methamphetamine. “I was at work. I was worried about making a living and she was home taking care of the kids, sleeping with these other guys and high as can be. Where was her responsibility toward the children?”

He describes feeling betrayed. "I trusted her. I gave her everything I had emotionally. She just couldn't be happy with only me. She had to sleep with one of my employees. Do you know what that was like when people found out? How humiliated I felt? How can I protect the children from these affairs? You know that I couldn't protect Stephanie from finding out. She walked in on Mary! My daughter had to see this. See her mom with another man. How do I explain this to her?"

Sam explained that his wife did what she always does whenever she gets caught in a lie; she ran away. "One day, I returned home and found that Mary had taken the kids. They left. Yeah, it was only for one night but do you know what it is like not to know where your family is for a whole day? Again, she places her needs ahead of everyone else. The kids were scared. I was scared. Mary was covering her ass because she was caught with another guy and she was probably high, too."

Sam explained that once he discovered his wife having an affair in their marital home, he installed a 24-hour surveillance system in Mary's home. He also hired a PI to watch her. Sam said that he was somewhat obsessed with knowing the truth about her actions. Not long after, Sam confronted Mary with pictures of her affairs and drug use.

In an attempt to save the marriage, Mary entered the Never Fail Treatment Center for drug abuse. Sam said that he held out hope for reconciliation. During one of the family sessions at the treatment center, Mary announced that she was finished with the marriage. "I was crushed. I really thought we could salvage this marriage. But, she walked away. I just heard the Lord speak to me. He said, "Let her go." I let her go, alright. I moved on. I stopped giving her money, closed the joint accounts, and just stopped dreaming of her return. Let her make it on her own."

Sam said that once Mary got out of rehab, she appeared recovered. He left for a business trip to South America. He received an emergency call that Stephanie tried to jump out of her mother's car while it was moving. Apparently, Stephanie and her mother were having a fight. The next day, Mary attempted to take her life. Sam reported that Mary had tried to kill herself when she was younger.

Stephanie refuses to talk about the argument with her mother because she feels responsible for Mary's suicide attempt. "I have tried to talk with Stephanie that nothing was her fault but she just refuses to talk with me about this. She feels so responsible for her mother's actions."

"My poor child. She has taken such hits from this divorce. She fights with her mom and then her mom tries to commit suicide the next day. She walks in on her mother with another man while they are having sex. She just can't take any more stress, no more surprises from her mom. She needs a safe place. A place where nothing unexpected or threatening happens. She has a shelter with me at my house."

Sam acknowledges that Mary seems to have changed her behavior toward the children in a more positive manner. "I know that the children love their mom. I know that they also miss her. She was a fun mom at times and they miss her love and tenderness. They don't miss her unpredictable behavior. They don't miss her drunkenness, although I think that they only think

that their mom was tired and smelled funny most of the time. Today, she is giving my kids more attention than they have had from her in years. I don't know whether we can trust this change. We have seen these attempts at change before. Don't get me wrong, I get that the kids need their mother in their life. I also know that she has a long way to go before she is grown up and responsible on a daily basis with our children."

Interpretation of Results from Psychological Tests and Measures

Tests and Measures for Variables Associated with Parental Emotional and Psychological Functioning

Questions have been raised about Sam's psychological and emotional well-being. In this section, two areas of psychological examination are reported. The first is a discussion of test results that assessed Sam's emotional and psychological functioning along a variety of psychological dimensions. The second is a discussion of test results that assessed aspects of Sam's parenting, both in relationship to Stephanie and Robert and in relationship to his co-parenting behavior with Mary.

Tests and Measures of Sam's Emotional and Psychological Functioning

Results from the MMPI-2. Sam's approach to the test as measured by the validity scale scores (L = 56; F = 42; K = 64; S = 75) suggests that he approached the test in a manner somewhat *similar* to the configuration of the normative data reported for a sample of male custody litigants (L = 55.55; F = 43.55; K = 57.85; Bathurst, Gottfried, & Gottfried, 2005). Sam's score on the S-scale suggests a higher level of defensiveness than is typically revealed by men undergoing custody evaluation. These results suggest that Sam presented himself in a socially desirable manner, attempting to hide his faults and to reveal a favorable self-presentation. This suggests that his scores are likely to be an underestimate of his true functioning. The higher elevation on the S scale may also suggest a tendency toward rigid thinking and a likelihood of narcissistic functioning.¹

MMPI-2 Scoring

Average score:	50 T
Clinically Significant Score Level:	65 T

Referring to the clinical scale scores, almost all of Sam's clinical, supplementary, and content scale scores revealed that all scales were within normal limits.

Three Supplementary Scale scores were at or above the clinical cut off. Given the likely effect of his validity scale scores to suppress his true scores on the clinical scales, it is likely that

¹ Bathurst et al. reported that MMPI-2 profiles with T- scores on the L, K or both L and K scales that were equal to or greater than 65T or above were classified as underreporting. Bagby et al. reported that MMPI-2 profiles with a T-score on the S scale that was equal to or greater than 65T or above was classified as underreporting. Bagby et al. suggested that the S scale may be a better predictor of under-reporting than the L and K scales. Taking a conservative approach, I report both sets of scores and their respective interpretations.

Sam's true scores are somewhat higher than reported suggesting that these elevated scales may be underestimates of his true functioning.

Sam scored at the clinically significant cut off on the R [Repression] scale. The R scale consists of 37 items and purport to measure a unique factor associated with denial and suppression of and/or constriction and inhibition of interests - either negative or positive - in five areas of functioning:

1. Health and physical symptoms;
2. Emotionality, violence, and activity;
3. Family and relationship problems;
4. Social dominance and social participation; and
5. Personal and vocational pursuits.

People with scores on the R scale that are similar to Sam are seen as being unwilling to discuss their problems. This unwillingness may be intentional or unintentional. According to Greene (2007), "these clients are reporting a moderate to severe level of emotional distress despite their best attempts to inhibit or suppress any awareness of their problems. They see themselves as being responsible for their problems and are very motivated to work on finding relief from them. They feel like their problems are overwhelming." (p. 225).

Sam also scored at the clinically significant cut off on the Es [Ego Strength] scale. The Es scale consists of 52 items that are purported to measure a general capacity for personality integration (or ego strength). High scores on the Es scale suggests that the person may have good resources to deal with day to day stressors and were more likely than not to be facing situational rather than chronic stress.

Finally, Sam scored in the clinically significant range of the Re [Social Responsibility] scale. The Re scale consists of 56 items and is purported to measure a person's greater concern for social and moral issues, disapproving of favoritism, emphasizing carrying one's own share of duties and burdens, having a sense of trust and confidence in the world, and being poised and self-assured. People who score similar to Sam's score are typically described as behaving in a socially appropriate manner, are very conventional, and interact easily with others.

Addiction Scales. Since addictive behaviors are viewed as deficit parenting as well as a direct concern to the best psychological interest of children, scales that purport to explore aspects of addiction were examined. The MMPI-2 has three scales which examine aspects of addiction. The Addiction Acknowledgment Scale (AAS) purports to measure the extent to which an individual has endorsed content relevant to alcohol or drug use and abuse. The Addiction Proneness Scale (APS) appears to measure the tendency for an individual to have lifestyle characteristics associated with the development of alcohol and drug problems. The MacAndrew Scale-Revised (Mac-R) purports to measure individuals who are prone to developing problems of addiction such as alcohol, drugs, gambling or other addictive problems (Pope, Butcher & Seelen, 2008). Sam's score on the AAS scale was T = 36. His score on the APS scale was T = 38. His score on the Mac-R was T = 37. These scores suggest no current concern for lifestyle characteristics associated with use of drugs and alcohol.

Results from the MCMI III. Sam appears to have responded in a manner somewhat similar in configuration and in magnitude to people undergoing custody evaluations ($X = 18$; $Y = 84$; $Z = 0$). These scores compare favorably with the configuration but not the magnitude of validity scale scores a sample of female custody litigants. McCann, Flens, Campagna, Collman, Lazzaro, & Connor (2008) reported mean validity scores males of $X = 30.45$; $Y = 75.83$; $Z = 20.39$.² Sam's score of 0 on the Z scale (Debasement) suggests that he does not acknowledge minor faults and mistakes that are commonly acknowledged by others. The lack of any score on the Debasement scales adds further support for the hypothesis described above in the discussion about the MMPI-2 that it is likely that Sam's views himself as unrealistically virtuous and such item endorsements leading to no score on Debasement may further support the hypothesis of some narcissistic functioning.

The configuration of Sam's scores on the MCMI III are typical for a custody litigant. He scored highest on the three scales that are typically the highest three scales among both custody litigants and among normal, healthy individuals. Although his approach to the MCMI III is similar to his approach to the MMPI-2 in that he attempted to display a highly favorable self-presentation, his scores on the clinical personality pattern scales are within normal limits.

On first glance, it would appear that Sam's score on Scale 4 (Histrionic Personality = 90BR) appears elevated. However, the MCMI III manual suggests that this score should be adjusted for the effect of his highly self-favorable presentation. The adjustment subtracts from the clinical personality scale the contribution to his score made by his virtuous self-presentation. When this adjustment is made, Sam's Scale 4 score places him below the clinical cut off.

An interpretation drawn from Sam's adjusted score is that he is similar to people to tend to have strong histrionic tendencies but these tendencies do not reach the level of a personality disorder. People who score in the range in which Sam scored on the histrionic scale are characterized as overly dramatic with strong needs to be at the center of attention. They may be easily excitable, gregarious, outgoing, and frequently display how they feel. It is likely that Sam's elevated Scale 4 reflects a normative rather than pathological histrionic style.

Many of these qualities have been observed during this evaluation and have been observed by others prior to this evaluation. Sam has displayed an openness and friendliness during aspects of this evaluation. He has also become angry, often quickly and reactively, when he interpreted events or statements as not supportive of his desired position. He has displayed a need to be at the center of attention, a tendency to be impulsive and reactive, and a tendency to be dramatic. When combined with qualities of rigidness and stubbornness described from the MMPI-2 findings, a strong hypothesis is that Sam tends to display an initial socially gregarious style until he is

² An individual's validity scale scores that indicate a defensive response style suggest that the respondent was less than candid in his responses. The validity scale results cannot tell us if the defensive response style was an intentional attempt to present a different picture of himself or if the defensive response style was an unintentional attempt to present a different picture of himself. Either way, the effect of a defensive response style on my ability to interpret other test scores is to reduce the confidence I have in understanding the meaning of a specific scale score. For example, an individual may or may not have answered honestly on a scale that yielded a low score. I am unable to determine whether a specific scale score is low because of defensive responding or whether a specific scale score is low because the individual, in fact, provided a true response to items on that scale. The effect is to lower my confidence that the test results reflect true scores for that individual.

challenged or until he does not get his way. Once he does not get his way or once he perceives that he does not get his way, then he tends to display a rigidness coupled with a dramatic, impulsive and reactive style placing his needs at the center of attention. In my judgment, these findings help to explain some of the power struggle that Sam experiences with Stephanie and with Mary.

Addiction Scales. Similar to the MMPI-2 measures of substance use and abuse, the MCMI III reports two scales which purport to measure such behaviors. A high score on the alcohol dependence scale (B scale) purports to measure whether an individual who has a history of an alcohol problem has made a successful effort to overcome the difficulty. If the individual has not failed to overcome the problem, are there difficulties in his family and work setting. A high score on the drug dependence scale (T scale) suggests the individual is likely to have had recurrent or recent history of drug abuse, tends to have difficulty in restraining impulses or keeping them within appropriate social limits, and displays an inability to manage the personal consequences of these behaviors (Millon, 1994). Sam's scores suggest no current risk for substance related dependency (B = 5; T = 20).

Tests and Measures Associated with Parent-Child Related Variables

Results from the Parent-Child Relationship Inventory. The PCRI is a 78 item self-report test purported to measure a parent's perception of his or her relationship with each child. Six dimensions of the parent's perception of their parenting skills are measured: Support, Satisfaction, Involvement, Communication, Limit Setting, Autonomy and Role Orientation. Sam completed a PCRI for Stephanie and Robert.

The PCRI is interpreted by using a T score of 50 as average. Individuals scoring near the mean feel positive about their perceived effectiveness on the particular dimension. Scores below 40 suggest increasing difficulty. Scores above 60 suggest increasingly more comfort.

Sam's scores that he views his parent-child relationship with Stephanie and Robert to be within normal limits.

Results from the Parenting Stress Inventory. The PSI is intended to identify stressful areas in parent-child interactions. Child characteristics are measured in 6 subscales: distractibility/hyperactivity, adaptability, reinforces parent, demandingness, mood and acceptability. Adult characteristics are measured in 7 subscales: competence, isolation, attachment, health, role restriction, depression and spouse.³ Sam completed a PSI for Robert and for Stephanie.

Sam's responses on the PSI suggested that he approached the test in a defensive manner. As a result, it is likely that his test scores are underestimates of his true score. These scores may also suggest that Sam's low scores are similar to parents who are highly competent or are detached from and uninvolved with their children.

³ Recently, decision rules about how to use the PSI in child custody evaluations have been published. See Abidin, Austin, & Flens (2013).

Evaluation of Mary Best

Mary appeared defensive from the beginning of her interviews. She stated her concern that I was biased from the outset because I was hired by her estranged husband's attorney. I explained that I was an independent evaluator, appointed by the court and not hired by either side. I explained how I would approach collecting information during the evaluation but she appeared certain that I would not give her a fair hearing. That explanation appeared to somewhat calm Mary.

Mary told me about her affairs and drug use. She explained that she was a victim of domestic violence during her marriage. She said that the violence began during their honeymoon when Sam attempted to throw her out of their rental car because she was smoking. Although he came back to pick her up, she decided then and there that he was dangerous and that she would no longer be open and forthright with him. "No one has the right to threaten another person like that. I was a kid on my honeymoon and he scared me! When I asked for an apology, he said that I deserved what I got. Those are not the words of someone who loves you."

Mary was asked to explain her involvement with drug and alcohol use. She explained that she turned to drugs and alcohol early in the marriage to escape from the marital difficulties she experienced. "Sam always looked down on me, always looked down on women. He hates women. I am so afraid that he will turn that anger on Stephanie (crying). How can I protect my baby when he has them most of the time? I am a victim of his violence. He has such a terrible temper. Ask the kids. They will tell you about his explosions!"

I pointed out that she did not answer the question about drug and alcohol use. Mary responded: "You aren't listening to me. I told you. He is violent. He is dangerous. I turned to drugs to get away from him. I turned to other men to get away from him. Finally, I ran away from him and took the children. I protected myself. I protected my children. You have to be able to see that!"

I asked Mary to explain her understanding of the effects of her drug and alcohol use on the children. She said that she was able to hide her substance abuse from the children. "Maybe they saw me sleep late a few times but I was always there for them. I would drink at night after they went to bed. I never used drugs until the end of the marriage. My drink was to escape from the hell of my marriage. I couldn't live with him without some escape."

Mary described how her recent rehabilitation has left her re-energized and more committed than ever to get the children back. She believes that her former substance abuse never affected her parenting. She believes that she is a competent parent, more competent than Sam, and believes that the children view her as the better of the two parents. When asked how she concluded this, she said that she often talks with the children about their view of their father's parenting. She explained that her children force her to tell the truth about their father's actions during the marriage and she explains how he is less concerned about their feelings. She said that she has told the children that once the litigation is over their father will give the children back to her because he is only interested in having custody in order to make their mother pay their father

money to raise them. She said that the children are angry at their father for taking money from their mother.

When asked how sharing such information was in the children's best interests, Mary said that it is important for the children to know the truth about their divorce. She needs to teach her daughter, in particular, to be cautious of men who engage in abusive behavior toward their family members.

Interpretation of Results from Psychological Tests and Measures

Tests and Measures for Variables Associated with Parental Emotional and Psychological Functioning

Questions have been raised about Mary's psychological and emotional well-being. In this section of the report, two areas of psychological functioning are examined. In the first area, I have examined Mary's emotional and psychological functioning along a variety of dimensions. In the second area, I have examined aspects of Mary's parenting, including parenting factors associated with risk to children. See the discussion about the selection of psychological tests presented previously in the report.

Tests and Measures of Mary's Emotional and Psychological Functioning

Results from the MMPI-2: According to Mary's MMPI-2 results, her approach to the test (L = 57; F = 48; K = 61; S = 66) appeared to suggest that she approached the test in a manner *similar* to the configuration and the magnitude of the normative data reported for a sample of female custody litigants (L = 56.58; F = 45.82; K = 59.53; Bathurst, Gottfried, & Gottfried, 2005). These results suggest that she presented herself in a defensive manner and likely put forth a favorable presentation somewhat similar to virtuous presentation observed with Sam.

Mary's score on the S-scale suggests a somewhat higher level of defensiveness than is typically revealed by women undergoing custody evaluation. These results suggest that Mary presented herself in a socially desirable manner, attempting to hide her faults and to reveal a favorable self-presentation. This suggests that her scores are likely to be an underestimate of her true functioning. The somewhat higher elevation on the S scale may also suggest a tendency toward rigid thinking and a likelihood of narcissistic functioning.

What strikes this evaluator at the initial point of interpreting Mary's psychological tests is her scores on the validity scales of the MMPI-2. At first impression, a reasonable hypothesis is that the conflict between Mary and Sam may be due, in part, to their similar approach to life. As these results reveal, both Mary and Sam tend to be rigid, view themselves as highly virtuous, and may show tendencies toward narcissistic functioning.

Almost all of Mary's scores on the clinical, supplementary, and content scale scores were in the average range.

Three Supplementary Scale scores were at or above the clinical cut off. Given the likely effect of her validity scale scores to suppress her true scores on the clinical scales, it is likely that Mary's true scores are somewhat higher than reported suggesting that these elevated scales may be underestimates of her true functioning.

Mary scored at above the clinically significant cut off on the R scale. The R scale consists of 37 items and purport to measure a unique factor associated with denial and suppression of and/or constriction and inhibition of interests - either negative or positive - in five areas of functioning:

1. Health and physical symptoms;
2. Emotionality, violence, and activity;
3. Family and relationship problems;
4. Social dominance and social participation; and
5. Personal and vocational pursuits.

People with scores on the R [Repression] scale that are similar to Mary are seen as being unwilling to discuss their problems. This unwillingness may be intentional or unintentional. According to Greene (2007), "these clients are reporting a moderate to severe level of emotional distress despite their best attempts to inhibit or suppress any awareness of their problems. They see themselves as being responsible for their problems and are very motivated to work on finding relief from them. They feel like their problems are overwhelming." (p. 225).

Mary scored in the clinically significant range of the Re [Social Responsibility] scale, achieving the same score as Sam on this scale (68T). The Re scale consists of 56 items and is purported to measure a person's greater concern for social and moral issues, disapproving of favoritism, emphasizing carrying one's own share of duties and burdens, having a sense of trust and confidence in the world, and being poised and self-assured. People who score similar to Mary's score are typically described as behaving in a socially appropriate manner, are very conventional, and interact easily with others.

Mary scored above the clinical cut off on the GM [Gender Masculine) scale. The GM scale consists of 47 items and purports to measure positive psychological adjustment. Research does not support the use of the GM (or the GF) scale as a measure of sex roles. Examination of the content of the items suggests they measure areas related to denial of fears, anxieties, and somatic symptoms.

What is notable is that the elevations achieved by Mary on the MMPI-2 are similar in two out of the three scales elevated on Sam's MMPI-2.

Addiction Scales. Since addictive behaviors are viewed as deficit parenting as well as a direct concern to the best psychological interests of children, scales that purport to explore aspects of addiction were examined. The MMPI-2 has three scales which examine aspects of addiction. The Addiction Acknowledgment Scale (AAS) purports to measure the extent to which an individual has endorsed content relevant to alcohol or drug use and abuse. The Addiction Proneness Scale (APS) appears to measure the tendency for an individual to have lifestyle characteristics associated with the development of alcohol and drug problems. The MacAndrew Scale-Revised (Mac-R)

purports to measure individuals who are prone to developing problems of addiction such as alcohol, drugs, gambling or other addictive problems (Pope, Butcher & Seelen, 2008). Mary's score on the AAS scale was T = 73. Her score on the APS scale was T = 72. Her score on the Mac-R was T = 68. These scores suggest that she may have several lifestyle characteristics associated with use of drugs and alcohol, both historically and presently.

Results from the MCMI III. Mary appears to have responded in a manner somewhat similar to people undergoing custody evaluations (X = 1; Y = 65; Z = 0). These scores compare favorably with the configuration of scores a sample of custody litigants. (McCann, Flens, Campagna, Collman, Lazzaro, & Connor, 2008 reported mean validity scores for females of X = 32.73; Y = 75.64; Z = 25.70.) They do not compare with the magnitude. Mary's validity scale scores suggest that she was less open (BR = 1) and, similar to Sam, Mary's score of 0 on the Z scale (Debasement) suggests that she does not acknowledge minor faults and mistakes that are commonly acknowledged by others. The lack of any score on the Debasement scales adds further support for the hypothesis described above in the discussion about the MMPI-2 that it is likely that Mary's views herself as unrealistically virtuous and such item endorsements leading to no score on Debasement may further support the hypothesis of some narcissistic functioning. Similar to the comparison of Mary and Sam's scores on the MMPI-2, Mary's score on a scale measuring a "fake good" defensiveness was lower than Sam's "fake good" scale.

As a result of these validity scale scores, it is likely that her scores may reflect an under-reporting of and underestimated her true scores.

Results from the clinical scales are all within normal limits. Similar to the MMPI-2, the MCMI III has scales that examine how an individual approaches taking the test. Defensive scores such as those obtained by Mary tend to influence how scores on clinical scales are interpreted. Some validity scale scores on the MCMI III may inflate some clinical scale scores. The MCMI III manual provides information about how to remove from scale scores that portion of a total score that is the result of a "faking good" response style. In addition, recently researchers have noted a sex bias on some scale of the MCMI III, one of which is Scale 7 (Compulsive). It would appear that Mary's raw score on Scale 7 (14) is lower than Sam's raw score on Scale 7(17), yet Mary's BR score is higher than Sam. Hynan (2011) points out that such base rate score differences should not exist and that their presence from the MCMI III printout suggests an error.

A final way of examining Mary's MCMI III scores is the pattern of scores. Most parents undergoing custody assessment score highest on Scales 4, 5, and 7 (Histrionic, Narcissistic, & Compulsive, respectively). These scales are also most often elevated among a population of emotionally healthy individuals (Halon, 2009). Mary's highest three scores were on these scales, too. This suggests that she scored in a manner typically found among custody litigants.

Addiction Scales. Similar to the MMPI-2 measures of substance use and abuse, the MCMI III reports two scales which purport to measure such behaviors. A high score on the alcohol dependence scale (B scale) purports to measure whether an individual who has a history of an alcohol problem has made a successful effort to overcome the difficulty. If the individual has not failed to overcome the problem, are there difficulties in his family and work setting. A high score on the drug dependence scale (T scale) suggests the individual is likely to have had recurrent or

recent history of drug abuse, tends to have difficulty in restraining impulses or keeping them within appropriate social limits, and displays an inability to manage the personal consequences of these behaviors (Millon, 1994). Mary's scores suggest current risk for substance related dependency (B = 89; T = 86).

Assessment of Parenting Factors Associated with Risk for Abuse and Maltreatment and other Parenting Factors

Results from the Parent-Child Relationship Inventory. The PCRI is a 78-item self-report test purported to measure a parent's perception of his or her relationship with each child. Six dimensions of the parent's perception of their parenting skills are measured: Support, Satisfaction, Involvement, Communication, Limit Setting, Autonomy and Role Orientation. Mary completed a PCRI for Stephanie and for Robert.

The PCRI is interpreted by using a T score of 50 as average. Individuals scoring near the mean feel positive about their perceived effectiveness on the particular dimension. Scores below 40 suggest increasing difficulty. Scores above 60 suggest increasingly more comfort.

Results suggest that Mary views herself as similar to parents who view themselves as competent in all areas assessed.

Results from the Parenting Stress Inventory. The PSI is intended to identify stressful areas in parent-child interactions. Child characteristics are measured in 6 subscales: distractibility/hyperactivity, adaptability, reinforces parent, demandingness, mood and acceptability. Adult characteristics are measured in 7 subscales: competence, isolation, attachment, health, role restriction, depression and spouse. Mary completed a PSI for Stephanie and Robert.

Mary's PSI validity scale score for Robert was within normal limits. Mary views Robert as behaving in a normal and healthy manner. Robert is viewed as reasonably adaptable and Mary's view of Robert's physical, intellectual, and/or emotional characteristics matches her hoped for child.

Mary's PSI validity score for Stephanie was within normal limits. Mary views Stephanie as reasonably adaptable. Mary's view of Stephanie's physical, intellectual, and/or emotional characteristics matches her hoped for child.

Mary views Stephanie as having some difficulties with moodiness and, at times, may view Stephanie as a somewhat difficult child.

Mary reports that she feels that she is carrying the lion's share of parenting responsibilities when it comes to Robert and feels that she does not receive a reasonable degree of emotional support from Sam regarding Robert. Mary feels that her relationship with Sam is more difficult in matters related to Stephanie.

Summary of Collateral Information

Several collateral records were reviewed and several interviews were conducted for this evaluation. Stephanie's and Robert's teachers report that they are attentive to their school work. When they return from a weekend with their mother, little change to their daily work habits have been observed. Three times over the past year, Robert reported feeling tired and very hungry when he began school on a Monday - twice after being with his mother for the weekend and once after being with his father for the weekend. Stephanie reported that when she is with her mother, her mother helps with completing her homework. When she is with her father, Sam is actively involved in assisting Stephanie with her assignments.

Both parents have attended parent-teacher conferences. The school personnel commented on the tension between the parents when they are together for those meetings. Both parents were observed at times to ask questions that appeared off topic. At one meeting in 2016, Stephanie's teacher was uncertain if Mary was coherent during the meeting. She questioned whether Mary had consumed alcohol prior to that parent-teacher conference that was held at seven in the morning.

Neighbors who were interviewed generally have observed the children to play outside and enjoy themselves. Sam was reported to invited neighborhood children to play with Stephanie and Robert and also to spend the night. Mary was reported to be somewhat more reclusive, allowing the children to play with other children but not extending overnight invitations.

The grandparents provided information about each parent's active involvement with the children. Concern was voiced by Mary's parents about their view of Sam as manipulative and opportunistic. They view their daughter's alleged drug and alcohol abuse problems as the result of the violent home life that Mary experienced while married to Sam. None of the collaterals who were interviewed provided information to support Mary's contention that she was a victim of a marriage characterized by violence and abuses of power and control. One of Sam's collateral sources described instances in which Mary was observed to be intoxicated during dinner parties or family outings during the time they were married.

Mary's mother and stepfather raised questions about Sam's character. Mr. White, in particular, said that he noted characteristics of Sam that were similar to those that he displayed many years ago when he was violent toward Mrs. White (Mary's mother). Mrs. White also expressed concern about Sam as a wife beater. Although neither of them observed Mary to be the victim of acts of physical aggression, they reported several phone calls just before Mary went into rehab in which she tearfully described how poorly Sam was treating her.

All of the teachers and neighbors described the children as happy, well adjusted, and polite children.

Integration of Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations

In this section, I summarize my findings based upon the data collected and analyzed in this evaluation. The first and, in my view, most important finding is that each child reports having a good relationship with each parent and each parent reports having a good relationship with each

child. A review of the records reveals that both parents have consistently described in interviews with mental health professionals and in their respective declarations to the court that they have a good relationship with each child since the litigation began. The data obtained in this evaluation is consistent with the characterizations made by each parent in their earlier statements to others; that is, each parent views his/her relationship with each child as healthy and strong.

Sam's relationship with the children appears to be based on a more consistent, stable, and predictable amount of time as their care taker. Sam appears to be more helpful in providing the children with structure and guidance in all aspects of their lives. Mary is viewed as a more passive parent who allows the children to do more of what they wish. Research findings support an authoritative parenting style for children. Such a parenting style is characterized by appropriate structure and limit setting, warmth, and responsiveness to the children's expressed needs.

Mary's history with drugs and her recent rehabilitation for alcohol abuse appears to have been partially successful. Psychological test data point to concerns about her life style and choices that are related to drug and alcohol use and abuse. Stephanie's teacher's observation that Mary appeared intoxicated during a parent-teacher conference is also a concern. The children's report that their mother tends to sleep late and have a funny smell like bad perfume all point to concerns about Mary's continued alcohol use.

Based upon these findings, it is my professional opinion with a reasonable degree of professional certainty that the children should reside in the sole custody of their father with liberal parenting time provided to the mother, including every other weekend and a mid-week dinner visit.

The data obtained in this evaluation show that Sam has been the better decision maker about the children and about the family as a whole. I recommend sole decision making be vested with Sam. Sam should discuss with Mary important decisions about the children but the final decision should reside with Sam.

Thank you for the opportunity to evaluate this interesting family system.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Newton

Isaac Newton, Ph.D., ABPP

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Title:

Implications of Technology and Social Media for Domestic Violence and Family Court Cases

Description:

This interactive workshop will explore the implications of technology in Domestic Violence and Family Court cases. Professionals will learn how batterers use phone technology, social networking and GPS to circumvent injunctions for protection, supervised visitation and child custody. Legal and Mental Health Practitioners will explore how victims of domestic violence can overcome communication issues using mobile and online communication tools, such as the OurFamilyWizard website, designed specifically for high conflict parents.

Presenters:

Steven Bradley – Certified Domestic Violence Advocate and Trainer

Kevin Dorsey – OFW Professional Liaison

Outline

- a. Introduction: Why does the court system need to care about technology?
- b. First main point: Tactics batterers are using.
 - i. Bluetooth
 - ii. Caller ID
 - iii. Smart phones
 - iv. Spoof Cards
 - v. Apps used to stalk and bully victims
 - vi. GPS
 - vii. Spyware
- c. Second main point: Risks of social media.
 - i. Sources of Social Media
 - ii. Access points
 - iii. How online spaces are misused
 - iv. Online impersonation
 - v. Cyberbullying
- d. Third main point: Tools for survivors, advocates and court officials.
 - i. OurFamilyWizard website
 1. Feature overview
 2. Obtaining business record affidavits
 3. Professional access
 4. Court examples
 - ii. Call and text blocking
 - iii. Available apps for safety
 - iv. Security and privacy settings
- e. Conclusion: Gathering evidence.
 - i. Obtaining subpoenas
 - ii. Obtaining OFW records
 - iii. Authenticating evidence

iv. Case Law

Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize the ways that social media technology, such as facebook applications, tweets, text and sext messages, cyberbullying, and geo-tagged images are impacting cases;
2. Discuss evidentiary issues/problems/concerns regarding the use of social media in litigation;
3. Discuss what tools are available to advocates, courts and law enforcement to reduce cyber stalking and abuse.

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Austin

<p>Ainslie, Daphny, PsyD</p>	<p>Phone: 512-904-9202 Address: 5750 Balcones Drive, Suite 111 Email: daphny@ainslieconsulting.com Website: www.ainslieconsulting.com</p>	<p>Forensic Evaluation</p>
<p>Garcia, RJ - Interventionist, Therapist, Mediator</p>	<p>Phone: 512-614-1299 Address: 4131 Spicewood Springs Road Building K Suite 10 Austin, Texas 78626 Email: doable.recovery@gmail.com Website: www.doablerecovery.com</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, mediator, assessment for substance abuse disorder</p>

Bryan / College Station

<p>Rockett, Jennifer, PHD</p>	<p>Phone: 979-450-5320 Address: 3201 East University Drive, Suite 200 Bryan, Texas 77802 Email: drjenniferrockett@gmail.com Website: www.drrockett.org</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Psycho-legal evaluations</p>
<p>Thompson, Melinda M. LPC, LPA, NCC</p>	<p>Phone: 979.571.7108 Address: 408 Tarrow St. East College Station, Texas 77840 Email: melindalpc@yahoo.com Website: melindamthompson.com</p>	<p>Parent Facilitator, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, Collab. Law MHP & Child Sp.</p>

Texas Chapter AFCC

Bulverde

DeNicolò, Denise
LPC-S, LCDC, NCC

Phone: 210-865-6445
Address: 29710 US Hwy 281 N, Suite 106
Bulverde TX 78163
Email: counselor@DeniseDeNicolòLPC.com
Website: www.DeniseDeNicolòLPC.com

Custody Evaluations,
Counselor for families of divorce & separation

Conroe

Smith, Rebecca
MA, LPC-S

Phone: 936-760-1880
Address: 212 Conroe Drive
Conroe Tx 77301
Email: CCMC@CounselingCenterMoCo.com
Rebecca@CounselingCenterMoCo.com
Website: www.CounselingCenterMC.com
www.OurFamilyAcademy.com

Custody Evaluations,
Parent Facilitator,
Reunification,
Counselor for families of divorce & separation,
Consultant,
30+ groups per week for substance abuse/addiction,
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Coparent Education

Reedy, Judith
LPC

Phone: 936-207-1330
Address: 212 Conroe Drive
Conroe Tx 77301
Email: judith@judithreedy.com
Website: www.judithreedy.com

Parent Facilitator,
Counselor for families of divorce & separation

Coppell

Bradshaw Schmidt, Christy
MA, LPC

Phone: 214-502-7224
Address: P.O. Box 2043
Email: christy@txfamilylawforensics.com
Website: www.txfamilylawforensics.com

Custody Evaluations,
Expert Witness/Consultant

Texas Chapter AFCC

Corpus Christi

Sutherland, Larken
MS, LPC

Phone: 361-850-8900
Address: 5830 McArdle #4
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412
Email: ljsds@aol.com

Parent Facilitator,
Reunification,
Counselor for families of divorce & separation

Denton

Brooks Kildebeck, MaryAnn

Phone: 972-377-6400
Address: 1015 West Oak Street
Email: maryann@kildebeck.us
Website: parentingfacilitationandmediation.com

Custody Evaluations,
Parent Facilitator,
Reunification,
Counselor for families of divorce & separation,
Collaborative Divorce

Fort Worth

Carpenter, Brad
LMSW-AP

Phone: 817-924-7173
Address: 3216 Tanglewood Trail
Email: txadophomestudies@gmail.com

Custody Evaluations

Janet Denton,
Director/Attorney,
Family Court Services of
Tarrant County

Phone: 817-884-1925
Address: 200 E Weatherford St., 2nd Floor West,
Fort Worth TX 76196
Email: jmdenton@tarrantcounty.com
Website: www.tarrantcounty.com
(Family Court Services tab)

Custody Evaluations,
Parent Coordination,
Supervised Visitation,
Co-Parenting Ed

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Frisco

Harvey, Victoria Ph.D., M.S.C.J.	Phone: 972-330-7944 Address: 8668 John Hickman Parkway, Suite 905 Email: drvictoriaharvey@gmail.com Website: www.mitchellphd.com	Custody Evaluations, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, Psychological Evaluations
Logan, Monika MA, LPC, LSOTP	Phone: 972-895-2502 Address: 2770 Main Street Suite 150 Email: mlogan@texaspcs.org Website: www.MonikaLogan.com	Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation
Robb, Aaron Ph.D.	Phone: 972-360-7437 Address: 2831 Eldorado Parkway Suite 103-377, Frisco, TX 75033 Email: aaron@texascounseling.org Website: www.texascounseling.org	Custody Evaluations, Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, Supervised visitation

Grapevine

Burman, Melanie LCSW	Phone: 817-481-7474 Address: 2311 Mustang Sr. #300 Email: officemanager@gapevinebehavioral.com Website: Grapevine-Behavioral.com	Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation
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Greenville

Weatherly, Kevin Ph.D.	Phone: 903-883-7792 Address: 5604 Wesley St. 101 Email: kevin@kswphd.com Website: http://www.kswphd.com	Custody Evaluations, Counselor for families of divorce & separation
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Houston

<p>Silverman, Edward G. Ph.D. Licensed Psychologist</p>	<p>Phone: 281-444-4494 Address: 14550 Torrey Chase Blvd. Suite 630 Houston, TX 77014 Email: edsilverman@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation</p>
<p>Tinder, Adrienne PH.D.</p>	<p>Phone: 281-444-4494 Address: 14550 Torrey Chase Blvd. Suite 630 Houston, TX 77014 Email: antinder@gmail.com</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, General evaluation and treatment for children, adults, and families</p>
<p>Smith, Rebecca MA, LPC-S</p>	<p>Phone: 936-760-1880 Address: 14550 Torrey Chase Blvd. Suite 630 Houston, TX 77014 Email: CCMC@CounselingCenterMoCo.com Rebecca@CounselingCenterMoCo.com Website: www.CounselingCenterMC.com www.OurFamilyAcademy.com</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, Consultant, 30+ groups per week for substance abuse/addiction, Supervised Visitation, Coparent Education</p>
<p>Lombardi, Lori MA, LPC-S, PF, PC</p>	<p>Phone: 832-704-3900 Address: 5629 FM 1960 West, Suite 231 Houston, Texas 77069 Email: lombardi390@gmail.com Website: lombardipsychotherapy.com</p>	<p>Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, Consultant, Parental alienation, High conflict divorce</p>

Texas Chapter AFCC

Humble

Arredondo, S Elizabeth,
MA, LPC-S

Phone: 832-409-4143
Address: 18700 W Lake Houston Pkwy
Suite A102
Email: eharredondo@gmail.com
Website: www.houstonparentingcoordination.com

Parent Facilitator,
Counselor for families of divorce & separation

Kaufman

Craig, Bradley
LMSW-IPR, CFLE

Phone: 800 239 3971
Address: PO Box 1353
Mineola, TX 75773
Email: support@childreninthemiddle.com
Website: childreninthemiddle.com

Parent Facilitator,
Parenting Plan Mediations

Mansfield

Rogers, Jessica
MA, LPC

Phone: 817-475-1735
Address: 990 Hwy 287 North
Suite 106 #353
Email: jrogers@socialstudysolutions.com
Website: www.socialstudysolutions.com

Custody Evaluations,
Parent Facilitator,
Reunification,
Counselor for families of divorce & separation,
Consultant,
Co-Parenting,
Relationship Expert

Nacogdoches

Kroll, Sydney
PsyD

Phone: 936-462-8577
Address: 518 E Hospital St
Email: sydneykr@gmail.com
Website: www.pineywoodspychologicalservices.com

Custody Evaluations,
Psychological assessment

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Richardson

<p>Sanders, Katie LMFT, LPC</p>	<p>Phone: 972-372-9811 Address: 1702 N Collins Blvd, Suite 190, Richardson, TX 75080 Email: katie@sanderscounseling.com Website: sanderscounseling.com</p>	<p>Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, Couples, Individuals and Adolescents.</p>
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San Antonio

<p>Bannin, Jack MS, LPC, LMFT</p>	<p>Phone: 210-320-2999 Address: 11230 West Ave., Ste. 1203 Email: info@bexarfamilysolutions.com Website: bexarfamilysolutions.com</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Parent Facilitator, Coparenting Education (16-hr in person course)</p>
<p>Anthony Neugebauer</p>	<p>Phone: 210-414-4356 Address: 102 Vassar Lane #17 Email: aneugebauer@bexar.org Website: https://www.bexar.org/1494/Domestic-Relations-Office</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation</p>
<p>Carol Anne Waters, MA, LPC, LCDC</p>	<p>Phone: 210-995-0214 Address: 7434 Louis Pasteur, San Antonio TX 78229 Email: cawaters@satx.rr.com</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, Substance Abuse Assessments and counseling</p>

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Sugar Land

<p>Backs, NormaJo, Ed.D, LPC-S, LMFT-S</p>	<p>Phone: 713-444-4326 Address: Greatwood Professional Offices 7002 Riverbrook Dr, Suite 900A Email: drnbacks@gmail.com Website: ftbendcountypsychotherapy.com</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, Alienation</p>
<p>Bevan, Jay Ph.D.</p>	<p>Phone: 281-242-1970 Address: 101 Southwestern Boulevard, Suite 109 Sugar Land, Texas 77478 Email: drjaybevan@halversonandbevan.com</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Counselor for families of divorce & separation</p>
<p>Chilcote, Cindy</p>	<p>Phone: 832-600-2585 Address: 14905 Southwest Freeway Suite 211 Sugar Land, Texas 77478 Email: CindyChilcote@yahoo.com Website: www.CindyChilcote.com</p>	<p>Custody Evaluations, Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation, Home Study Evaluations</p>

The Woodlands

<p>Reedy, Judith LPC</p>	<p>Phone: 936-207-1330 Address: 25511 Budde Road, #501 The Woodlands, TX 77380 Email: judith@judithreedy.com Website: www.judithreedy.com</p>	<p>Parent Facilitator, Counselor for families of divorce & separation</p>
<p>Peterson, Brandi MA, LPC, LMFT</p>	<p>Phone: 832-409-0061 Address: Two Hughes Landing 1790 Hughes Landing Blvd. Suite 400 The Woodlands, Tx 77380 Email: brandi@familycounselingofthewoodlands.com Website: www.familycounselingofthewoodlands.com</p>	<p>Parent Facilitator, Reunification, Counselor for families of divorce & separation</p>

Texas Chapter AFCC

Weatherford

Dennie, Mary Beth
LPC-S

Phone: 817-629-9132
Address: 300 S. Main St., Suite 201
Email: dennie.m@att.net
Website: marybethdennie.com

Parent Facilitator,
Reunification,
Counselor for families of divorce & separation

Whitesboro

Kemp, Peggy

Phone: 903-821-0852
Address: 54 Dawkins Rd.
Email: mls12@yahoo.com
Website: www.phk.com

Custody Evaluations

2019 Texas AFCC Annual Conference Evaluation

The Expert Expert Witness

Stanley Brodsky

	Above		Below		Poor
	Excellent	Average	Average	Average	
How would you rate the amount of new information you learned?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the usefulness of this information in your job?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the accuracy of the objectives to the session presentation?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the materials presented in this session?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the presentation skills and knowledge level of the presenter(s)?	5	4	3	2	1

Mock Trial

	Above		Below		Poor
	Excellent	Average	Average	Average	
How would you rate the amount of new information you learned?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the usefulness of this information in your job?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the accuracy of the objectives to the session presentation?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the materials presented in this session?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the presentation skills and knowledge level of the presenter(s)?	5	4	3	2	1

Domestic Violence

Steven Bradley & Kevin Dorsey

	Above		Below		Poor
	Excellent	Average	Average	Average	
How would you rate the amount of new information you learned?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the usefulness of this information in your job?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the accuracy of the objectives to the session presentation?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the materials presented in this session?	5	4	3	2	1
How would you rate the presentation skills and knowledge level of the presenter(s)?	5	4	3	2	1

Overall conference experience

	Above		Below		Poor
	Excellent	Average	Average	Average	
Organization of this conference?	5	4	3	2	1
The facility?	5	4	3	2	1
Registration for this conference?	5	4	3	2	1
My expectations of the conference were met?	5	4	3	2	1

What was one thing from the conference that you believe will be the most useful?

What suggestions or comments do you have to help us improve your conference experience?
