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## **References for Psychology/Family Law Related Topics**

### **Pennsylvania Law and Regulations for the Practice of Psychology:**

PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS PRACTICE ACT  
Act of Mar. 23, 1972, P.L. 136, No. 52 Cl. 63

<https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Psychology/Documents/Applications%20and%20Forms/Non-Application%20Documents/PsychM%20-%20Psychology%20Board%20Act.pdf>

Regulations-Chapter 41. State Board of Psychology  
<https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter41/chap41toc.html>

### **Pennsylvania Child Custody Law:**

Title 23-Chapter 53 Child Custody

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=23&div=0&chpt=53>

Book:  
Custody Law and Practice in Pennsylvania  
David Hofstein, Sandra Melton Editors  
Pennsylvania Bar Institute Press

## **APA Ethics and Guidelines:**

**(Note-In the Regulations governing the practice of psychology in Pennsylvania, we are REQUIRED to act in accord with American Psychological Association standards and Guidelines related to practice and to the conduct of research with human beings and animals.)**

Principle 3e from the Pennsylvania Regulations Ethical Principles:

*(e) As practitioners and researchers, psychologists act in accord with American Psychological Association standards and guidelines related to practice and to the conduct of research with human beings and animals. In the ordinary course of events, psychologists adhere to relevant governmental laws and institutional regulations. Whenever the laws, regulations or standards are in conflict, psychologists make known their commitment to a resolution of the conflict. Both practitioners and researchers are concerned with the development of laws and regulations which best serve the public interest.*

Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct

<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/>

Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings

<http://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/child-custody.aspx>

Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology

<http://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/forensic-psychology.aspx>

Psychological Evaluations in Child Protection Matters

<http://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/child-protection.aspx>

Guidelines for the Practice of Parenting Coordination

<http://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/parenting-coordination.aspx>

## **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) ([www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)):**

(The AFCC is the premier interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict. AFCC members are the leading practitioners, researchers, teachers and policymakers in the family court arena. It is composed of attorneys, Judges, Psychologists and other mental health professionals, and Family Court Personnel.

They publish practice standards and guidelines for various areas of practice in Family Law related areas. Although the AFCC guidelines are not mandated by Pennsylvania law, they do constitute a “standard of practice” and one should be knowledgeable about the content of the AFCC standards.)

Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluations

<https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/ModelStdsChildCustodyEvalSept2006.pdf>

Guidelines for Examining Intimate Partner Violence: A Supplement to the AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation

<https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/Center%20for%20Excellance/Guidelines%20for%20Examining%20Intimate%20Partner%20Violence.pdf>

Guidelines for Brief Focused Assessment

<https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/PublicDocuments/Guidelines/BFATF2009final.pdf>

Guidelines for Court Involved Therapy

<https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/PublicDocuments/CEFCP/Guidelines%20for%20Court%20Involved%20Therapy%20AFCC.pdf>

Standards for Supervised Visitation Practice

[https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/PublicDocuments/Guidelines/Supervised\\_Visitation\\_Nework-StandardsFinal7-14-06.pdf](https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/PublicDocuments/Guidelines/Supervised_Visitation_Nework-StandardsFinal7-14-06.pdf)

Guidelines for Parenting Coordination

<https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/AFCCGuidelinesforParentingcoordinationnew.pdf>

There are additional standards for Child Protection Mediation, Family Divorce Mediation, and Eldercare Coordination on the AFCC website.

### **The Grossman Decision:**

The Grossman decision is very important in Pennsylvania. It affirmed that when there is shared or joint legal custody of a child under age 14, there must be consent from both parents (or a Court Order) in order to evaluate that child. Although Dr. Grossman was hired to conduct a review of a custody evaluation conducted by someone else, he met with a child without consent from both parents.

GROSSMAN v. STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

<https://caselaw.findlaw.com/pa-commonwealth-court/1186197.html>

**A Sampling of Books about Conducting Custody Evaluations:**

The Art and Science of Child Custody Evaluations

Jonathan Gould and David Martindale

The Guilford Press 2007

Clinician's Guide to Child Custody Evaluations

Marc J. Ackerman

John Wiley and Sons 2001

Child Custody Evaluation: New Theoretical Applications and Research

Daniel J. Hynan

Charles C. Thomas 2014

Conducting Child Custody Evaluations: From Basic to Complex Issues

Philip M. Stahl

Sage 2011

The Scientific Basis of Child Custody Decisions

Edited by: Robert Galatzer-Levy, Louis Kraus, Jeanne Galatzer-Levy

John Wiley 2009

Parenting Plan Evaluations: Applied Research for the Family Court (Second Edition)

Leslie Drozd, Nancy Olesen, Michael Saini

Oxford 2016

Parenting Plans and Child Custody Evaluations: Using Decision Trees to Increase Evaluator Competence and Avoid Preventable Errors

Leslie Drozd, Nancy Olesen, Michael Saini

Professional Resource Press 2013

Child Custody Evaluations: Mental Health and Legal Perspectives

Joanna Rohrbaugh

Springer 2008

Psychological Experts in Divorce Actions

Marc Ackerman, Andrew Kane

Wolters Kluwer Sixth Edition 2017 (Price Alert-This is app. \$400.00)

### **Parental Alienation**

Children Held Hostage

Stanley Clawar, Brynne Rivlin

American Bar Association 2013

Children Who Resist Postseparation Parental Contact: A Differential Approach for Legal and Mental Health Professionals

Barbara Jo Fidler, Nicholas Bala, Michael Saini

Oxford Press 2013

Overcoming Parent-Child Contact Problems: Family-Based Interventions for Resistance, Rejections, & Alienation. Abigail Judge.

### **Testifying:**

Clinicians in Court: A Guide to Subpoenas, Depositions, Testifying and Everything Else you Need to Know

Alan Barsky, Jonathan Gould

Guilford Press 2002

Coping With Cross Examination: and Other Pathways to Effective Testimony

Stanley Brodsky

APA Press 2004

Brodsky, S. & Gutheil, T. (1999). The Expert Witness

Ceci, S. Hembroucke, H. (2001) Expert Witnesses in Child Abuse Cases.

How to Examine Mental Health Experts: A Family Lawyers Handbook of Issues and Strategies

John Zervopoulos

American Bar Association 2013

(This is written for lawyers on ways to cross examine us. It is good to read about the strategies they may use.)

### **Parenting Coordination:**

Rule 1915.11-1 Parenting Coordination

<https://law.justia.com/cases/pennsylvania/supreme-court/2018/684-civil-procedural-rules-docket.html>

(Note- Parenting Coordination was allowed in Pennsylvania. In 2013 The Pennsylvania Supreme Court eliminated Parenting Coordination in Pennsylvania. They have recently re-instated it. If you plan to do Parenting Coordination, you must may yourself familiar with the above Rule.)

Also refer to APA and AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination listed above.

Books:

Parenting Coordination in Postseparation Disputes:

A Comprehensive Guide for Practitioners

Edited by Shirley Ann Higuchi, JD, and Stephen J. Lally, PhD, ABPP

2014 APA Press

### **Parenting Capacity Literature Resources:**

Ayoub, C. and R. Kinscherff (2006). Forensic assessment of parenting in child abuse and neglect cases. In

Sattler, Jerome M. (1998). Clinical and forensic interviewing of children and families: Guidelines for the mental health, education, pediatric, and child maltreatment fields. La Mesa, CA, US: Jerome M Sattler Publisher.

Budd, K. (2011). Evaluation of Parenting Capacity in Child Protection (Best Practices for Forensic Mental Health Assessments).

Cassidy, J. and P. Shaver, Eds. (2010). Handbook of Attachment: Theory, Research, and Clinical Applications, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, NY: Guilford Press.

Mash, E. (Ed.) and R. Barkley (2009). Assessment of Childhood Disorders, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. NY: Guilford Press.

Medoff, D. and Kinscherff (2006). Assessing firesetting behavior in children and adolescents. In S. Sparta & G. Koocher (Eds.) Forensic Mental Health Assessment of Children and Adolescents, Oxford University Press.

Saywitz, K & Comparo, L. Evidence-based Child Forensic Interviewing.

Sparta, S. & G. Koocher (Eds.) Forensic Mental Health Assessment of Children and Adolescents, Oxford University Press.

Walker, A.G. (2017) Handbook on Questioning Children, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.

**Co-parenting:**

Bonnell, K. and Little, K. (2017). The Co-parenting Handbook: Raising well-adjusted and resilient kids from little ones to young adults through divorce or separation.

Overcoming the Co-Parenting Trap: Essential Parenting Skills When a Child Resists a Parent.  
John Moran, PhD.