



ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
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eNEWS

Scholarship Deadline September 4, Register Today 11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations Examining Unintended Consequences November 6-8, 2014, San Antonio, Texas

Apply for a Scholarship

Scholarships to cover the cost of a full-day pre-symposium institute, symposium registration, ticket for Friday's luncheon, certificate of attendance, as well as access to the AFCC hospitality suite, will be awarded to applicants selected by the AFCC Scholarship Committee. The application deadline is September 4, 2014, and recipients will be notified in mid-September. The application should take no more than a half hour to complete.

[Apply online](#)

Symposium Plenary Sessions

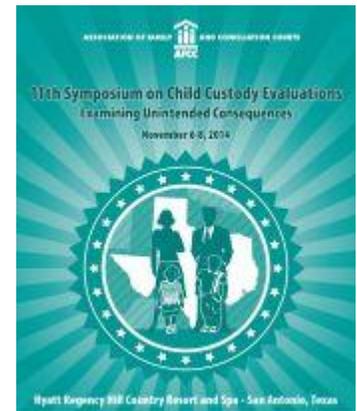
The Opening Session, Thursday evening, 5:30pm-7:00pm, is a town hall meeting discussion titled, ***Examining the Unintended Consequences of Child Custody Evaluations***. This is an excellent chance to let your voice be heard and to hear from your colleagues on the current and future state of the custody evaluations field. What is working? What issues do you encounter over and over? The discussion will include presenters Aaron Robb, PhD; Hon. Dianna J. Gould-Saltman; Jeffrey P. Wittmann, PhD; Leslie Ellen Shear, JD, CFLS; and moderator Arnold T. Shienvold, PhD.

[Read the session description](#)

The General Session, Friday morning, 8:30am-10:00am, ***The Activities and Roles of Consultants: How Many is too Many?*** will feature presenters with differing positions on the roles and activities of mental health professionals retained by attorneys to assist in testimonial and non-testimonial capacities. Panel discussants will include: David A. Martindale, PhD, ABPP; Milfred "Bud" Dale, PhD, JD; Robert A. Simon, PhD; S. Margaret Lee, PhD; and moderator Robin M.

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER
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AUGUST 2014

AFCC Conferences



AFCC 11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations *Examining Unintended Consequences*

November 6–8, 2014
Hyatt Regency Hill Country
Resort and Spa
San Antonio, Texas

[Register today](#)

AFCC 52nd Annual Conference

May 27 –30, 2015
*Children in the Court System:
Different Doors, Different
Responses, Different
Outcomes*
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
New Orleans, Louisiana

Deutsch, PhD.

[Read the session description](#)

Register for the Symposium

Register and make sure your payment is received on or before October 10, 2014, to receive the discounted early registration rate. If you are not already a member, or know someone who should become a member, AFCC members always get the best prices on registration. Join AFCC when you register for the Symposium to save up to \$100.

[Register today](#)

[View the program brochure](#)

Hotel Reservations

The AFCC room rate at the [Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa](#) is \$159 per night for single and double occupancy. The resort fee is waived for reservations made at the AFCC special rate and includes in-room wi-fi and many other amenities. [Reserve your room online](#) or call toll free 888-421-1442. On October 11, 2014, unreserved rooms in the AFCC block will be released and the special rate may no longer be available.

Exhibits and Advertising

Introduce your organization and its products and services to the interdisciplinary professionals who attend AFCC conferences with an onsite exhibit or put your marketing piece in the hands of each attendee with a registration packet insert. See the [prospectus](#) for more information.

Ask the Experts

This month, in preparation for the Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations we are please to offer two Ask the Experts columns. The authors of both will present full-day pre-symposium institutes on the topics Thursday, November 6, 2014, in San Antonio.

Ten Reasons to Reconsider *NOT* using the Rorschach in Your Child Custody Evaluations

By Robert Erard, PhD, Bloomfield, Michigan

What's both the oldest and newest personality test being used in forensic practice? How can you get past what parents say about themselves and actually observe their personalities in action? Dr. Erard explains how the recently developed Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS®) addresses previous concerns about forensic use of the Rorschach and describes how it complements the use of self-report methods (such as interviews, questionnaires, and "objective" personality tests) to enrich and contextualize personality

[Call for proposals](#)

AFCC Regional Training Conference

November 5 –7, 2015
Hyatt Regency Columbus
Columbus, Ohio

AFCC Training Programs

The Model Standards and Beyond: Custody Evaluations and Risk Management

David Martindale, PhD
December 8-9, 2014
University of Baltimore School of Law, Student Center
Baltimore, Maryland

Parenting Coordination: Strategies for Helping Parents Improve Communication and Reduce Conflict

Mindy Mitnick, EdM
December 10-11, 2014
University of Baltimore School of Law, Student Center
Baltimore, Maryland

AFCC Chapter Annual Conferences

Wisconsin Chapter Annual Conference

Understanding and Managing the Challenges of Relocation: A Factor Based Approach
September 26, 2014
Country Springs Hotel and Conference Center
Pewaukee, Wisconsin
[More information](#)

Florida Chapter Annual Conference

October 16–18, 2014
The Wyndham Tampa Westshore
Tampa, Florida
[More information](#)

Ontario Chapter Annual

description and provide incremental validity in multi-method child custody evaluations.

[Read more](#)

Ten Tips for Writing High Quality and Helpful Custody Evaluation Reports

By Robert L. Kaufman, PhD, ABPP, Oakland & San Rafael, California, and Daniel B. Pickar, PhD, ABPP, Santa Rosa, California

The preparation of a child custody evaluation (CCE) report is the culmination of a lengthy, often intense, stressful, and intrusive process for parents and children. Unless there is a trial in which the evaluator testifies, the CCE report may be the only means by which the parents, judge, and attorneys understand the evaluator's thinking. Despite the importance of CCE reports, little has been written about how to craft a high quality report that responds to the needs of this multi-client system. It is estimated that between 80-90% of cases in which a CCE has been conducted settle either outside of court or without a trial. Thus, in the day-to-day world of family law, custody reports most frequently serve a settlement function. Our work focuses on integrating forensic and clinical approaches to guide report writing that supports families resolving disputes and moving forward in the interests of their children.

[Read more](#)

Deadline to Submit a Proposal to Present in New Orleans, October 1, 2014



Submit a proposal to present a workshop at the AFCC 52nd Annual Conference, *Children in the Court System: Different Doors, Different Responses, Different Outcomes*, May 27-30, 2015, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. See the [call for proposals](#) for a list of topic suggestions or submit proposal on a topic related to the conference theme. All proposals must be submitted using the [online form](#).

Member News

Daniel Hynan, PhD, Hinsdale, Illinois, has written a new book, *Child Custody Evaluation: New Theoretical Applications and Research* (Charles C. Thomas Publishers). It contains important information, including: psychological test data specific to CCE for the PCRI, PAI,

Conference

Exploring Relevant Issues Facing Our Family Courts

October 16–17, 2014

Marconi Club

London, Ontario

[More information](#)

Arizona Chapter Annual Conference

Tomorrow is Here: Examining the Challenges of the Modern Family

February 6–8, 2015

Sedona, Arizona

[More information](#)

California Chapter Annual Conference

Inventing the Future: Getting Ahead of the Curve for California's Families

February 6–8, 2015

Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel

Costa Mesa, California

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Oregon Chapter Annual Conference

Shared Parenting

April 10, 2015

The Grotto Conference Center
Portland, Oregon

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AFCC offers member benefits that promote excellence in the field of family law and in your practice.

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AFCC Chapters

Network and share your interdisciplinary view of family court matters on a local level. There are currently chapters in the following states and

and MMPI-2; theoretical applications for cases and legal policy; methods to facilitate evaluation quality; and updates on crucial methods and issues.

Hon. Raymond T. McNeal (ret.), Ocala, Florida, is the first recipient of an award named in his honor by the Florida Bar Association. The Honorable Raymond T. McNeal Professionalism Award will be given annually to an individual who has been involved in the Family Law Section's 32-member executive council, of which McNeal is a former member.

Families Matter Report Released

Families Matter: Recommendations to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families in Court, a report released in June 2014, by the [Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts \(CFCC\)](#) details the discussions from the Families Matter Symposium convened in June 2010. AFCC member, Barbara Babb, associate professor of law at the University of Baltimore School of Law, director of the Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts and member of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) Honoring Families Initiative Advisory Committee and Gloria Danziger, a senior fellow at CFCC authored the piece. The report identifies recommendations to develop a more interdisciplinary, holistic and therapeutic focus for the family justice system.

Chapter News

Check the [Chapter Events page](#) for upcoming chapter annual conferences offering opportunities for AFCC style education, networking and learning near you. Chapters with conferences scheduled include: Wisconsin, Florida, Ontario, Arizona, California, and Oregon. Also see individual chapter websites for more local and regional events.

Coming Soon in Family Court Review

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The opinions expressed in articles published or linked to in the *AFCC eNEWS* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Editor:

Erin Sommerfeld
editor@afccnet.org



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The October issue will contain a special feature, commentary on Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System's (IAALS) [Honoring Families Initiative: Courts and Communities Helping Families in Transition Arising from Separation or Divorce](#). Commentaries include:

Family Courts Are Here to Stay, So Let's Improve Them—Barbara Babb

Don't Forget the Children: Court Protection from Parental Conflict is in the Best Interests of Children—Milfred D. Dale

Power to the Parties: A Perspective on "IAALS' Honoring Families Initiative: Courts and Communities Helping Families in Transition Arising From Separation and Divorce"—Gabrielle Davis, Nancy Ver Steegh, and Loretta Frederick

Self-Represented Litigants, the Courts, and the Legal Profession—Myths and Realities—John M. Greacen

The Challenges of Reform—Peter Salem

Wiley, publisher of *FCR*, now offers [Anywhere Article](#). To enjoy hassle-free viewing on most devices (including tablets and mobiles), interactive footnotes and reference lists, sign in to the AFCC Member Center and access *FCR* as usual. Then simply click "Enhanced Article (HTML)."

Help for Teachers and Educators

AFCC offers a free guide to assist educators in dealing with the issues that arise when a student's parents are separated/divorced, or were never married. [An Educator's Guide: Interacting with Separating, Divorcing, Never-Married Parents and Their Children](#) addresses and offers solutions to a range of issues, from how to structure parent-teacher conferences to how to handle requests for information for child custody evaluations. Share the guide with your clients and with educators in your community; AFCC membership is not required to access the guide. *An Educator's Guide* and many other valuable resources are available in the [Center for Excellence in Family Court](#)



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Family Law in the News

DNA Changes Linked to Health Effects of Childhood Abuse

By Krystnell Storr, courtesy of Reuters

Trauma has lasting effects on mental and physical health that may stem from changes to DNA which undermine a person's ability to rebound from stress, according to new research. "Increasingly it's looking like child abuse is not just a social or welfare problem. It's now looking like a biomedical problem and we might want to view it the way we view disease," said senior study author Seth Pollak, a psychologist and child development researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

[Read more](#)

For Some Same-Sex Couples, Breaking Up is Hard to Do

By Richard Wolf, courtesy of USA Today

For lesbian and gay couples living in states where their marriages are not recognized, divorce is proving next to impossible. They married in places such as Iowa and Massachusetts, where same-sex marriage is legal. They live in places such as Indiana and Mississippi, where it's not.

[Read more](#)



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Ask the Experts

Ten Tips for Writing High Quality and Helpful Custody Evaluation Reports

Robert L. Kaufman, PhD, ABPP, Oakland & San Rafael, California

Daniel B. Pickar, PhD, ABPP, Santa Rosa, California

The preparation of a child custody evaluation (CCE) report is the culmination of a lengthy, often intense, stressful, and intrusive process for parents and children. Unless there is a trial in which the evaluator testifies, the CCE report may be the only means by which the parents, judge, and attorneys have to understand the evaluator's thinking. Despite the importance of CCE reports, little has been written about how to craft a high quality report that responds to the needs of this multi-client system. It is estimated that between 80-90% of cases in which a CCE has been conducted settle either outside of court or without a trial. Thus, in the day-to-day world of family law, custody reports most frequently serve a settlement function. Our work focuses on integrating forensic and clinical approaches to guide report writing that supports families resolving disputes and moving forward in the interests of their children.

1. Be helpful to the court by offering *additive or incremental* input

Custody evaluators should not only understand the foundations of forensic evaluations and how they differ from purely clinical assessments, but also demonstrate that understanding in their reports. Apart from offering a recommended timeshare, be sure the report defines and responds to the psycho-legal issues of the specific case. Reports that are helpful to the court are those that synthesize current empirically based research in the field with the fact pattern and evidence of the case and well-informed clinical understanding of individuals and family dynamics.

2. Readability of the report

CCE reports should be written at a reading level that the average reader can understand. Jargon should be avoided and multiple subheadings should be utilized to improve organization and readability.

3. Presentation of psychological test results

Evaluators should not rely heavily on computer-generated test report interpretive statements, which, among other things, often emphasize pathology. Clinical judgment and skill are necessary when deciding what to include and not include from such computer-based reports. Evaluators who utilize psychological tests should be trained in independent interpretation of scores. Attempts should be made to frame interpretive statements of test findings in a useful and beneficial manner to maintain the humanity

and integrity of the parent being described. In addition to highlighting problematic aspects of psychological functioning which could negatively impact parenting, reports should also describe the strengths in a parent's psychological make-up and functioning which positively impact parenting.

4. Denote parental strengths as well as weaknesses

Reports should not only attempt to specify areas of parental weakness needing improvement, but also clearly highlight parental strengths for both parents. When describing parental weaknesses, evaluators should use appropriate clinical judgment (i.e., forensic empathy) and carefully attend to the manner in which such weaknesses are described, seeking to present such concerns in a non-judgmental manner. Sensitive feedback should be written in such a way to enhance a parents' ability to receive the information in a non-defensive manner.

5. Avoiding bias in reports

Evaluators should carefully review their reports prior to final submission to self-screen for various kinds of bias (i.e., confirmatory, countertransference bias). Such biases may be evident when parents are presented in a polarized fashion (one parent is "all good" while the other is "all bad"). However, other forms of bias are more subtle. Evaluators should seek consultation, if necessary, to control for biases.

6. Maintain a "settlement" mindset

Report writing should be approached with a mindset and awareness that a CCE report most often serves as a "settlement tool" rather than a "litigation tool." Though the custody report is an advisory report to the court and must meet the standards of forensic evaluations, it is most helpful when it includes information and recommendations that can be pragmatically applied by the family.

7. Presentation of recommendations for parents

Recognize that most parents want to do what is best for their children, even if it means taking steps to improve their parenting skills. Provide report recommendations for enhancement of parenting or co-parenting skills in a manner that increases hope. This can be accomplished by generating specific strategies and pathways for improvement, and noting the advantages not only to the child, but also to the parent, of improving ineffective parenting and co-parenting approaches.

8. Incorporate the "voice of the child" into reports

CCE reports should present information regarding children's stated or inferred custody preferences. If child custody plan recommendations drastically differ from a child's stated preferences (especially for a teenager), clearly articulated reasoning should be contained in a report noting that a child's input and preferences were carefully considered, but the evaluator deemed their stated wishes were not in their best interests. Where appropriate, include children's actual words in a report. Clinical judgment is crucial, however, in making decisions regarding what to include and not include about a child's concerns about a parent. Evaluators must be attentive to how

such child-generated information is described in the report, due to its potential to impact the child's future relationship with each parent.

9. Demonstrate careful, fair-minded weighing of the data

Evaluators should pay particular attention to how their analysis of the case is presented. It is important to discuss various hypotheses and parenting plans that were under consideration. Not only should evaluators discuss limitations of their assessments, but they should also reveal data that did not support their conclusions and the present reasoning for rejecting some hypotheses, but adopting others. Among other things, this demonstrates fair-mindedness.

10. Presentation of recommendations regarding post-evaluation services by divorce professionals

CCE reports need to be useful not only to the courts and to parents, but also to professionals (i.e., child's or parent's therapist, co-parenting therapist, parent coordinators, guardians ad litem) providing services to the family as part of a comprehensive parenting plan. Thus, reports should clearly articulate the purpose of each recommended intervention, while enumerating the stepwise goals for the manner in which these various services should be provided to the family.

The authors will present a full-day, pre-symposium institute at the AFCC 11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations in San Antonio, November 6, 2014, entitled, Writing the Child Custody Evaluation Report: Integrating Forensic and Clinical Perspectives. This column is also based upon a previously published article by the authors entitled, "The Child Custody Evaluation Report: Towards an Integrated Model of Practice, in the Journal of Child Custody, 10:1, 17-53 (2013).

Robert L. Kaufman, PhD, ABPP, is a clinical and forensic psychologist whose work in family law includes child custody evaluation, mediation, co-parenting counseling and consultation to attorneys. For over 25 years, he has also conducted psychological and neuropsychological assessments with children, teens and adults, and has taught and supervised assessment in several San Francisco Bay Area graduate programs, including UC Berkeley, the Wright Institute and Alliant University. Dr. Kaufman serves on the board of the California Chapter of AFCC and is past-president of the Family and Children's Law Center Board of Directors in San Rafael, California.

Daniel B. Pickar, PhD, ABPP, is a board certified child psychologist who conducts child custody evaluations, mediation, consultation to family law attorneys, and psycho-educational evaluations of children. He previously served as Chief of Child and Family Psychiatry at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Santa Rosa, California for 12 years. Dr. Pickar has published articles in the areas of child custody evaluation, child custody mediation, learning disabilities in children, and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Child Custody.



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Ask the Experts

10 Reasons to Reconsider **NOT** Using the Rorschach in Your Child Custody Evaluations

Robert E. Erard, PhD, Bloomfield, Michigan

The Rorschach Inkblot Test (1921) is one of the most widely used personality tests in child custody evaluations (Ackerman & Ackerman, 1997; Quinnell & Bow, 2001), but the importance of its contributions is frequently underestimated. It provides insights about how people view and make sense of the world, logically and coherently organize their thoughts and perceptions, cope with problems, regulate their impulses and emotions, understand people's motives and intentions, and create conditions for cooperation and conflict in relationships. But some custody evaluators have hesitated to use the Rorschach due to concerns about criticisms of the Rorschach Comprehensive System (Exner, 2003) in some of the scientific and professional literature (e.g., Erikson, Lilienfeld, & Vitacco, 2007; but see Erard, 2005; 2007) or worries about how to explain their findings in court.

The [Rorschach Performance Assessment System](#) (R-PAS[®]) (Meyer, Viglione, Mihura, Erard, & Erdberg, 2011), a new system for administering, scoring and interpreting the Rorschach, was designed to address these concerns. It uses the best validated variables (Mihura, Meyer, Dumitrascu, & Bombel, 2013) with documented clinical utility (Meyer, Hsiao, Viglione, Mihura, & Abraham, 2013) and organizes them according to their degree of empirical support and clinical meaningfulness. It presents results using percentiles and standard scores in an easy-to-read visual display, so that they can be understood by the intelligent layperson, and bases interpretations on cohesive, internationally-collected, non-pathologizing norms. It employs contemporary psychometric methods to generate more reliable and valid composite variables and to permit interpretation of scores in cases where people provide limited or highly complex protocols. Accordingly, it puts the Rorschach on a strong psychometric foundation and also satisfies stringent admissibility standards in family court (Erard, 2012; Erard, Meyer, & Viglione, 2014; Erard & Viglione, in press).

Still, you might just wonder, "Why bother learning something new? What difference does it really make if I don't use the Rorschach in my custody evaluations?" Here are 10 points to consider:

1. Clinical interviews, parent questionnaires, rating scales, and "objective" personality tests are important components of child custody evaluations, but they are all variations on a single methodology—self-report testing, and all of them share its limitations.

- If you rely primarily on self-report methods, you are depending too much on:
 - a) The limits of introspection:

Clinical and social psychology research documents the limitations of deliberate introspection, including confounds from self-deception, illusory mental health, attribution biases, cognitive heuristics, priming, and neurological or character problems associated with lack of insight.

b) Limited retrospective recall:

People's memories for past behavior and problems tend to correlate poorly with prior contemporaneous records and are subject to primacy and recency biases, fundamental attribution errors, and distortion by current moods and affect states.

c) Self-serving self-presentation:

How people present themselves is highly dependent on interpersonal context and what they wish to achieve with their presentations. It has been well documented that custody litigants typically put their best foot forward and minimize their faults and limitations in interviews and self-report testing.

d) Monomethod co-variance:

When people say essentially the same things about themselves in an interview, on a parent questionnaire, in a psychosocial history, and on commonly used personality inventories like the MMPI-2 and PAI, findings of high agreement "across methods" are often spurious. Because all these methods reflect how people verbally present themselves and all are subject to similar distortions, agreement among them is often more a reflection of the reliability of similar measures of similar constructs than validity in identifying extra-test correlates. In other words, the accumulation of many self-report findings is often a source of redundancy rather than enlightenment (like reading variations of the same Associated Press newsfeed in multiple newspapers). One's choice of methods for gathering data has a huge influence on what inferences are possible to derive about someone's motives, traits, and behaviors.

2. Performance-based assessment with the Rorschach shows you personality in action.

- How does the person go about solving the task? How does she relate to the examiner? How does she deal with frustration, embarrassment, or challenging demands? What qualities of the inkblots does she focus on? How does she resolve contradictory ideas? What themes does she keep coming back to?

3. Using the Rorschach, you can compare what people actually show you to what they say about themselves.

- The Rorschach is a brief, portable, standardized, and normatively referenced behavioral experiment. The person is solving a complex perceptual and verbal problem in front of you, showing you how he copes in a novel situation rather telling you about himself.
- A parent who claims to be a self-reliant, "take-charge" kind of person, but who scores at the 95th percentile on Oral-Dependent Language (a well-validated, Rorschach measure of implicit dependency) is showing you something he may not be aware of about himself.

- A parent who insists that she tries to avoid conflict and searches for win-win solutions, but who is passive-aggressive about following test instructions (Pr and Pu) and produces a Rorschach protocol with validated scores that show representations lacking cooperative interactions (COP) and showing destructive or coercive relationships (MAP), defensive superiority (PER), aggressive preoccupations (AGC and AGM), and oppositional characteristics (SR), is probably not the team player she presents herself to be.

4. The Rorschach helps you to see how motives, traits, and patterns of coping emerge in particular contexts.

- For instance, you can observe and quantify variations in the quality of perceiving and thinking under different conditions, including the conventional but changing features of the inkblot stimuli across cards, the person's overt emotional behavior, the thematic content of his attributions, or his behavior towards the examiner.

5. Unlike self-report, during Rorschach testing behavior is more spontaneous, unscripted, and unfiltered.

- The person likely lacks any detailed schema for how to behave when performing the task and has little guidance for how to look good on the test.
- Self-report findings are better at predicting deliberate performance in front of an audience, especially verbal performance. Rorschach findings are better at predicting how someone will behave automatically in unscripted situations over time and under conditions of stress or strong emotional demands (e.g., in family interactions behind closed doors; Finn, 1997).

6. Multi-method assessment including self-report testing and the Rorschach takes into account that both explicit and implicit dispositions shape behavior, particularly the sort of interpersonal behavior that most concerns us in custody cases.

- If you went to a doctor complaining of back pain and the doctor only asked you when, where, and how much it hurts, but performed no direct examination or testing, or the doctor ignored what you had to say and only observed how you moved, how much you could lift, and how you looked on X-rays, you might start looking for a second opinion. Understanding your pain would require not only listening to you but also observing and measuring things you cannot so easily describe (adapted from Hopwood & Bornstein, 2014).

7. Multi-method assessment that includes self-report and Rorschach-assessed characteristics evaluates both internal, verbalized experience (guiding deliberate action) and unscripted, spontaneous behavior.

- Contemporary personality theory is moving away from describing fixed, all-purpose traits and toward an understanding of how behavior unfolds depending on the interaction of one's internal attributes and situational demands in the environment. These are often expressed in "if-then" formulations (Mischel & Shoda 1995), such as:

—*If* she finds herself feeling stuck in sad or gloomy situations, *then* she quickly tries to turn them into something exciting and uplifting.

—If he engages in aggressive interactions, *then* he tends to misunderstand other people's motives.

—If she gets sidetracked by strong emotional demands, *then* she tends to shut down in an effort to recover quickly.

8. Multi-method assessment using both self-report testing and the Rorschach allows you to compare findings across contrasting approaches to gathering data, thus providing true incremental validity and offering a check against self-presentation biases.

- Self-report and performance-based personality tests tend to show low correlations with each other, but roughly equivalent correlations with relevant extra-test behavior (Mihura et al., 2013), so that having the results of valid scorers from both provides incremental validity and increases interpretive accuracy and confidence.
- Because it is difficult to guess what constitutes a good Rorschach response, people who present with illusory mental health on self-report testing often show more serious difficulties on the Rorschach (Ganellen, 2008; Hartmann & Hartmann, 2014).

9. The Rorschach Performance Assessment System® (R-PAS) uses international, cross-cultural, non-patient reference data and internationally applicable Form Quality tables that work well for people of diverse ethnic, linguistic, and national backgrounds.

- R-PAS adult norms are modeled from 640 non-clinical volunteers living in 13 countries and show very high cross-national convergence.
- R-PAS Form Quality tables (used to assess quality of reality testing and the likelihood of adaptive, conventional behavior) rest on a strong international, empirical foundation. This foundation incorporates over 50,000 accuracy ratings of individual Rorschach images from eleven countries, as well as information on the frequency with which these objects are spontaneously reported, derived from volunteers in six countries.

10. The Rorschach Performance Assessment System is a clinically rich, evidence-based, logically transparent, and user-friendly system that enriches evaluations and provides incremental validity in applied forensic practice.

Robert E. Erard, PhD will present a full-day, pre-symposium institute at the AFCC 11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations in San Antonio, November 6, 2014, The Unintended Consequences of Not Using the Rorschach in Child Custody Evaluations.

Dr. Erard is a past president of the Society for Personality Assessment and of the Michigan Inter-Professional Association on Marriage, Divorce, and the Family and is one of the developers of the Rorschach Performance Assessment System® (R-PAS).

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