

Good morning Attorney Willick,

I am sending this e-mail to respond to the concern you raised with our Lead Legal Office Specialist, Tammy Estes. The Court's approved Provider List contains several licensed Marriage and Family Therapists who have been approved to conduct custody evaluations by the Family Court's Forensic Service Providers Committee. Individuals who are approved to conduct custody evaluations have completed a minimum of 40 hours of training on child custody evaluations, have participated in a mentoring relationship with a qualified mentor through five cases and obtain 12 continuing education hours specific to custody evaluations each year. As you know, not all custody evaluations do, nor are they required to, include psychological evaluations or the administration of any tests, tools or inventories. When a custody evaluation does include a psychological evaluation, test, tool or inventory, the approved custody evaluator must be knowledgeable about the relevance and efficacy of any such item and must be proficient in administering any such item. In the event a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist is assigned a custody evaluation and a psychological evaluation, test, tool or inventory is included as part of the evaluation, an individual with the appropriate credentials (i.e., MD, PhD, PsyD) conducts the psychological evaluation and/or administers the test, tool or inventory. As you also know, the Family Court is under no obligation to adhere to the American Psychological Association's recommended guidelines. As such, there are no plans to more carefully vet, promptly amend or report the Court's approved Provider List.

Thank you so much for sharing your concern with us. FMC tremendously values its relationship with the legal community and appreciates your feedback.

Have a wonderful day,
Rae

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