

Side-by-Side Comparison: Custody Evaluation vs. CRM

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Custody Evaluation	Custody Resolution Method
<p>The child custody evaluator collects information from person-to-person interviews, review of documentation, and through various psychological test instruments of questionable applicability.</p>	<p>Using trained data taggers, CRM compiles the data for indicator categories of interest from the documented raw data provided to CRM surrounding the family.</p>
<p><u>Collecting Information:</u></p> <p>Data collection through interviews possibly benefits from the advanced knowledge of a custody evaluator, but also becomes seriously compromised by the potential personal and professional biases of the evaluator.</p> <p>Individual interviews with the family members exposes the evaluator to anticipated efforts by all parties to influence and persuade, and it becomes unclear as to whether these individual interviews represent data collection or persuasion opportunities by the participants.</p> <p>The extent to which these efforts at influence and persuasion by the participants achieve actual influence on the evaluator’s judgments and opinions, rather than a reliance solely upon the evidence presented to the evaluator, is unknown but should be deeply concerning.</p> <p>It is difficult to discern how the individual meetings of the evaluator with the participants is any different than the participants arguing their case before a Judge, attempting influence with the court through legal argument, except that the evaluator is now serving in a judicial capacity of evaluating the evidence offered through emotional argument.</p> <p>No controls are in place with child custody evaluations to limit or control the potential introduction of evaluator bias into the collection, review, relative weighting of evidence, and the interpretation of evidence.</p>	<p><u>Collecting Information:</u></p> <p>Trained data taggers review all of the documented data submitted and tag each indicator for a pre-specified and defined category of interest.</p> <p>Each data point tag is linked by the CRM computer profile to the specific raw data generating the tag. This allows for future review of all tagging for reliability and validity if desired.</p> <p>Each data point is equally weighted, and frequency compilations for each category of interest are compiled. This controls for and prevents the introduction of bias into data analysis.</p> <p>The data taggers do not come into contact with the family members and are not influenced by efforts at persuasion. Their task is simply to tag indicators of concern in the data as defined by the categories of interest.</p>

Custody Evaluation

The child custody evaluator weights and interprets the information collected in unknown ways using unknown factors, and the evaluator provides conclusions and recommendations based on the idiosyncratic and personal interpretations of the evaluator.

Data Interpretation:

Once the custody evaluator has collected extensive amounts of information, the custody evaluator then interprets the data using unknown factors that are arbitrary, subjective, and idiosyncratic to the evaluator.

There is no oversight of the constructs used in the interpretation of the data, nor is there oversight or review regarding whether the conclusions and recommendations reached by the evaluator are warranted by the data.

The conclusions reached by the custody evaluator are the personal conclusions of this one person, with no assurance that different conclusions would not be reached by a different mental health professional based on the same data.

In the capacity of a child custody evaluator, the evaluator has heard argument (emotionally based) and has made a determination of fact relative to the family and psychological processes, and then reports to the court the evaluator's personal determination of fact regarding the family and psychological processes involved.

There is no oversight or review for reliability or validity of the custody evaluator's conclusions and interpretation of the data.

Custody Resolution Method

Data from tagging is compiled into category frequencies for the categories of interest, creating a profile of compiled information regarding features of concern evidenced in the data.

Data Compilation & Reporting

CRM compiles data and reports data. CRM does not interpret data. It is the view of CRM that its role is simply to provide the court with information about family processes evidenced in the data to assist the court in its decision-making

CRM will provide an independent psychological report from PhD level psychologists regarding the meaning of the compiled CRM data profile surrounding the categories of interest.

The psychologists providing interpretive guidance for the meaning of the CRM profile have not been exposed to emotional argument and attempts to persuade.

Two independent psychologists are used in the formulation of the psychological profile report from the CRM data. The first psychologist provides data analysis of the compiled CRM data from a psychological perspective, and a second independent psychologist writes the report regarding the meaning of the psychological data profile as compiled by the first psychologist.

CRM relies on two independent psychologists who have not been exposed to the persuasive attempts by the participants, to provide data compilation and analysis regarding the psychological meaning of the data, providing the court with balanced and unbiased psychological information about the family processes evidenced in the data.

Oversight review of the psychology team is provided by CRM to ensure reliability and validity of the psychological information provided.