
This chapter is designed to introduce the reader to important concepts related to child custody evaluations. The chapter is not intended as an in-depth discussion of all relevant issues in the child custody arena. The chapter will, however, direct the reader to published peer-reviewed literature, research, and standards that will provide a greater in-depth discussion of the relevant topics. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2014 APA, all rights reserved)


This article will examine legislation around the country designed to decrease school referrals to the courts. The legislation highlighted addresses the actions to be taken within school systems, the role of the judiciary, and the engagement of multistakeholder groups in delinquency adjudication and disposition hearings. This article highlights state legislation that holds promise for shifting the landscape: identifying appropriate cases to be handled by the school rather than the court system; improving the school system’s capacity to address disruptions; and better clarifying the role of courts, probation, and the schools in addressing student misconduct. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2013 APA, all rights reserved)


Child custody evaluations can have a significant impact on the adjustment and well-being of children and family members. Custody evaluators must be qualified and held to the highest professional standards. The authors of this article review custody evaluations and often witness inadequate and unprofessional evaluations. In this article, ethical mistakes seen regularly are highlighted. Many mistakes occur when cases are complex and include allegations of child maltreatment or intimate partner violence. Therefore, it is important that custody evaluators be trained in family and child psychology, attachment dynamics, psychological assessment, child abuse, and intimate partner violence. Child custody work needs to be monitored closely to ensure that mistakes can be eliminated in order to avoid unnecessary harm to children and families. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2014 APA, all rights reserved)