

Understanding Psychological Evaluations
Three-Legged Stool Approach
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Identifying information

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Spouse's or other parent's name and date of birth
- Children's names and dates of birth

Introduction

- Referral Source
- Why the referral was made
- Brief background information
- Referral Question

Clinical Interviews and Observation (Leg One)

- Provides a "snapshot" of personal history
- Individual being evaluated; parents or caregivers if subject is a minor;
- Case manager, spouse, etc.

- Wisconsin Parenting Assessment

Observation

- Parent/Child interaction if parenting ability is in question (at home, in a supervised placement setting, in foster home, in a residential treatment facility or in the evaluator's office)
- Observation of child at school

Test Results (Leg Two)

Cognitive Testing

- Intelligence (Wechsler Scales, Peabody)
- Achievement (WRAT, WIAT, NEAT)
- Neurocognitive (Cognistat)

Personality Testing

- Projective (Rorschach, Thematic Apperception Test, Draw-a-Person Test)
- Objective (MMPI-2, MMPI-A, Millon, California Personality Test, Personality Inventory for Children)

Other

- Jesness Inventory
- Parental Stress Index
- Child Abuse Potential Inventory
- Manifestation of Symptomatology Scale
- Behavior rating scales (Conner's, Child Behavior Check List)
- Bricklin Perceptual Scales
- Bricklin Discipline Index
- Perception of Relationships Test

Collateral Information (Leg Three)

- Medical Records
- Psychotherapy/psychiatric records
- School records (children or young adults)
- Law enforcement records
- Social Services records

Diagnosis

Axis I through V

Summary and Recommendations

- Opinion given based on referral question
 - Placement (home, foster care, residential treatment facility)
 - Placement/custody
 - Treatment recommendations (psychotherapy, medication, parenting classes, educational programs, DVR, etc.)

Other considerations

- Psychological Evaluation compared to psychotherapy
- Qualifications of the evaluator
- Cost
- Payment source

