

I think there is a problem with the “approved list” that you asked me to (and I did ) circulate and post (attached). I have received e-mail from a lawyer indicating (correctly) that the list contains several LMFTs being posted as answering “yes” under the question “Custody Evaluations.” This is a problem.

As discussed in legal note Vol. 34 - Shrinks Gone Wild (posted at <http://willicklawgroup.com/vol-34-shrinks-gone-wild/>):

.....  
Misuse of psychological tools and terms is not limited to psychologists. There is a tendency in family court to use Marriage and Family Therapists (“MFTs”) or other counselors wherever possible, instead of psychologists, because they are cheaper. That, in and of itself, is okay, but such practitioners cannot properly administer objective test instruments or make diagnoses, and they should not be asked (or permitted) to perform tasks outside their professional training and expertise.

Some such practitioners, however, cannot seem to resist the urge to do so anyway - and their attempts endanger the legitimacy of every legal determination based on their reports. “Half-priced shrinks” can no more be expected to perform all the tasks required for full outsourced custody evaluations than “half-priced lawyers” could be expected to have the experience and skill of certified specialists. One may, or may not, get what is paid for, but certainly no more, and it does a disservice to everyone involved to pretend otherwise.

.....  
It is a violation of the American Psychological Association Guidelines for MFTs to administer psychological evaluation instruments or to perform, or purport to perform, “custody evaluations.” It is extremely problematic for the State - through the “approved list” representing the approval of the Nevada Family Court - to appear to condone or approve of that practice.

I think the list should be more carefully vetted, promptly amended, and reposted, as soon as may be practicable.

Marshal