

Butcher, J. N. & Williams, C. L. (2012). Problems with Using the MMPI-2-RF in Forensic Evaluations: A Clarification to Ellis (2012). *Journal of Child Custody*, 9:1-6.

Abstract

In a recent article, Ellis (2012) critically reviewed a number of references on the MMPI-2 in family custody evaluations and concluded, without reviewing the pertinent literature, that the MMPI-2-RF, and the RC 4 Scale, represents an advance in the field because they show “construction of purer and, thus, more accurate measures.” She recommended that the child custody evaluator would be wise to include them in their evaluation. Ellis failed to incorporate in her review any of the critical textbooks and articles that have pointed out significant flaws in the performance of the RC scales and the MMPI-2-RF in describing personality problems. This article points out many of the criticisms of the MMPI-2-RF and provides the reader with some of the empirical literature detailing the weaknesses of this new test. Psychologists using psychological tests to make important recommendations in family custody evaluations need to be knowledgeable about the values and weaknesses of the instruments used in their evaluation in order to face challenges they are likely to encounter in court.