

## Evaluation of Parenting Capacity in Child Protection

By Karen S. Budd, Mary Connell, and Jennifer R. Clark.  
New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. 217 pp.  
\$39.95.

This book is part of a series, *Best Practices in Forensic Mental Health Assessment*, edited by Thomas Grisso, Alan M. Goldstein, and Kirk Heilbrun. Each of 19 volumes is dedicated to a specific topic in forensic mental health assessment, and an additional book covers the topic in general.

Written by three psychologists, this volume first provides a foundation that includes basic concepts of law and forensic mental health and then goes on to discuss how these concepts can be applied in actual forensic practice. The authors discuss preparing for the evaluation, collecting data, interpreting the data, writing the report, and providing testimony. It has a good set of references, although many of them are 10 or more years old. At the end of the book is a list of various tests recommended for this type of assessment. Many of these were not created to be used in child placement conflicts. Further, some of them, such as Bricklin's Parent Awareness Skills Survey or the Parent Perception of Child Profile, may not pass a *Frye* or *Daubert* assessment and are rarely used by psychiatrists. However, the listing and associated references provide the background for understanding how and why these tests were developed.

The authors effectively categorize the necessary steps for understanding the background and concepts of these evaluations. A listing of some court decisions reflects societal conflicts and judges' attempts at bringing order to what could become a complicated case, reflecting a chaotic family situation. Again, although the listing includes some current American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law landmark cases, most are 15 years old or older.

This compendium would have been more current if it included a CD or recommended some up-to-date websites. Instead, it lacks coverage of important topics in today's world, such as homosexual parenting, blended families, and grandparents' rights. The last is especially important, because grandparents often care for children, on a temporary or permanent

basis, when parents are found to be abusive, neglectful, or both.

This book provides a good introduction to forensic evaluations for newcomers and students. It is small enough to be a good companion when actually performing an assessment. Other books in the series are devoted to criminal, civil, juvenile, and family cases.

For experienced forensic psychiatrists or psychologists, however, there is not much new in this particular volume of the series.

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## Clinical Practice of Forensic Neuropsychology: An Evidence-Based Approach

By Kyle Brauer Boone. New York: Guilford Press, 2013.  
352 pp. \$50.00.

One of the main attractions of *Clinical Practice of Forensic Neuropsychology: An Evidence-Based Approach* is that it is a single-author work and can be used either as a manual or read from cover to cover. It is a practical summary of the process of neuropsychological testing in a forensic setting that is both accessible to beginners and informative for forensic psychiatrists experienced in neuropsychological testing.

The text consists of eight chapters, beginning with "The Neuropsychological Exam" and ending with "Testimony," that take the reader through each successive stage of a forensic neuropsychological consultation. The basics of the initial assessment are discussed, with chapters dealing with the "Assessment of Symptom Validity," "PTSD," and "The Special Problem of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury" that describe the how and the why of assessment. Tests are reviewed individually in a systematic manner. The presentation of the statistical data is clear and accessible.

After the first chapter dealing with the examination, Dr. Brauer Boone devotes three chapters to the topic of symptom validity testing. Here, as in other chapters, she takes us through the commonly used tests, summarizing how each test works and what the research shows for the test. Her reviews of how the