

# Working with Psychologists

<b>1. CHOOSING A PSYCHOLOGIST</b>	1
Introduction	1
Purpose	1
Limitations	2
Selection	2
Professional differences	3
The brief	3
<i>Contents of the brief</i>	3
<b>2. PREPARING THE CLIENT</b>	5
Introduction	5
What the client can be told	5
Counsel for Child	6
<b>3. CHILD DEVELOPMENT – THE BASICS</b>	9
The NZ context	9
<i>How are children and youth distributed within the population?</i>	9
<i>How does ethnicity vary in children and youth?</i>	9
<i>What adults are present to care for children and youth?</i>	10
<i>Money, that ubiquitous but necessary condition for optimal development</i>	11
<i>Where do our children live?</i>	12
<i>Summary</i>	13
Attachment: not just a klingon but the basis of life, the universe and all that...	13
Parenting: rules, routines, love and beyond	16
<i>Warmth, involvement and responsiveness</i>	17
<i>Behaviour management skills</i>	17
<i>Control and effective boundaries (closeness-v-distance, structure-v-chaos, openness-v-isolation)</i>	18
<i>The capacity to provide fundamental needs for sustenance of life (nutrition, sleep schedules, toileetting, &amp; hygiene)</i>	19
<i>Motivation</i>	19
<i>Availability</i>	20
<i>Substance use (alcohol or other substances)</i>	20
<i>Depression</i>	21
<i>Personality disorders</i>	22
<i>Adult attachment difficulties</i>	23
<i>Patterns of adult violence</i>	25
<b>4. PREPARING THE REPORT</b>	29
Psychology: the nervous science	29
Psychological testing: 'surely people fake it'	30
<i>Coaching of children</i>	31
<i>Preparing children</i>	32

Psychological analysis: adding water to what was shrunk	32
And the report never mentioned...	32
Trees to forest: the big picture	33
<b>5. UNDERSTANDING THE REPORT</b>	35
Introduction	35
Substance and process	35
Does the report answer the brief?	35
How are conclusions reached?	36
<i>Structure: data versus opinion</i>	37
The language of lawyers and psychologists: 'psycho-babble' unmasked	37
<i>Counsel for Child</i>	38
<i>Conclusion</i>	39
<b>6. CRITIQUING</b>	41
Introduction	41
<i>Challenge now</i>	41
<i>Second opinion</i>	41
Critiquing the report	42
<i>Main aspects of the critique</i>	42
Challenge by cross-examination	45
<i>Reports that support your client</i>	46
<i>Counsel for Child</i>	46
<b>7. CROSS-EXAMINATION</b>	49
Introduction	49
Counsel for Child	49
<i>Briefing the psychologist</i>	49
<i>Leading the evidence</i>	50
Cross-examination by counsel for party	50
<i>Objective</i>	50
<i>Starting at the end</i>	50
<b>8. BACK TO THE FUTURE</b>	53
Is the Family Court working?	53
Suggestions for change – multi-disciplinary approach	54
<i>The Law Commission – Discussion Paper 2002</i>	54
<i>High conflict litigants</i>	54
<i>Extended mediation service</i>	55
<i>Special masters</i>	55
Early psychologist intervention	55
Auckland Court docket project	56
<i>Ancillary agency</i>	56
<i>Conclusion</i>	57
<b>REFERENCES</b>	59

<b>APPENDIX A: PRACTICE NOTE – SPECIALIST REPORT WRITERS</b>	61
<b>APPENDIX B: NEW ZEALAND PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY – CODE OF ETHICS 1986</b>	71
<b>APPENDIX C: PRACTICE NOTE: COUNSEL FOR CHILD CODE OF PRACTICE</b>	79
<b>APPENDIX D: SECOND OPINION EXPERT REPORTS IN THE FAMILY COURT</b>	87
<b>APPENDIX E: NZLS COUNSEL FOR CHILD: BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES</b>	93
<b>APPENDIX F: STATISTICAL SCREENS FOR CHILD ABUSE POTENTIAL</b>	101
Dunedin Family Services Indicator: Child Abuse or Neglect Potential Indicators	101
Browne & Herbert (1997) Checklist for Predictive Risk	102
<b>APPENDIX G: AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES FOR CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS IN DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS</b>	103