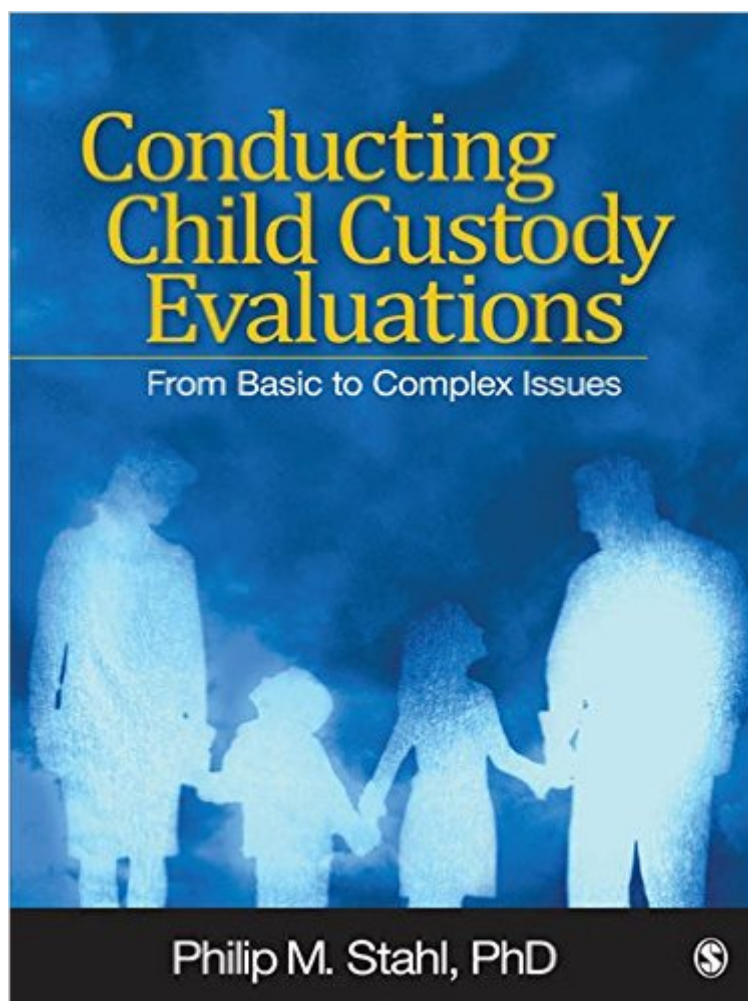


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# Conducting Child Custody Evaluations: From Basic To Complex Issues



## Synopsis

Covering the mental health expert's many roles as therapist, mediator, evaluator, consultant to attorneys, expert witness, and more, Philip M. Stahl's *Conducting Child Custody Evaluations: From Basic to Complex Issues* addresses key topics such as the best interests of the child, custody and time share, divorce and its impact on children, and children's developmental needs. From tackling the terror of testifying to critiquing your own child custody evaluations and avoiding bias inherent in this work, this practical and easy-to-read book offers comprehensive coverage vital to practitioners in this field.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dr. Stahl's new book represents a significant contribution to the literature in the area of conducting professional, useful and ethical child custody evaluations. I found this book well written, easy to read/follow and organized in a manner which makes it highly useful. Dr. Stahl's book is, in my view, an essential part of any professional library if that professional is involved directly or indirectly in the work that is related to conducting or using child custody evaluations. For those familiar with Dr.

Stahl's previous books on this topic, you'll not that this new book is a substantial revision of his previous volumes and one which encompasses up to date research in the field. I would note that this book combines the discussion of the fundamentals of child custody evaluations with a discussion of some of the more challenging and complicated issues that must be assessed in child custody evaluations. Because this book is written in a straightforward manner, it is useful to experienced professionals, those new to the field and even to lay individuals involved in child custody litigation. As an experienced child custody evaluator myself and one familiar with other books on similar topics, there is no doubt that Dr. Stahl's new volume must rightly take its place as a seminal book in this complex area. If you don't own this book, buy it.

This updated version contains a well-organized wealth of information, not just about how to conduct custody evaluations in the most balanced, forensically defensible manner, but also about several issues that might arise in special circumstances such as domestic violence, relocation, parental alienation syndrome, etc. The author's experience in dealing with such cases comes across clearly. One small drawback though is that in the earlier version, the author had included two sample reports which I thought would be very helpful to readers; in the current version, he presents a smaller, selected section of a report, which is still useful, though I would have liked to see more of it. Overall, as a practising clinician and forensic psychologist, I would highly recommend this book.

I assign to every one of my child custody clients several thorough readings of this book. Dr. Stahl has written a comprehensive description of child custody evaluations, and he's one of the foremost trainers of California custody evaluators, so his protocol for conducting evaluations is followed by most (if not all) of the evaluators working in my cases. Though this volume was intended to be a textbook for evaluators, it's quite accessible and informative for parents going through their own evaluations.

I have found this to be enormously helpful in my clinical work. Lots of practical examples and things to avoid. Paired with training and consultation, I highly recommend this to anyone undertaking custody evaluations.

The author clearly has a great deal of experience that he brings to this book. It is very light on science, which suggests the author either is not very aware of it or does not value it. The book's strength of reliance on the author's experience is also its weakness because he is only one expert.

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