

## LEGAL ETHICS

- In performing an evaluation, the child custody evaluator shall:
  - (1) Maintain objectivity, provide and gather balanced information for both parties, and control for bias.
  - (2) Protect the confidentiality of the parties and children in collateral contacts and not release information about the case to any individual except as authorized by the court or statute:
  - (3) Not offer any; recommendations about a party unless that party has been evaluated directly or in consultation with another qualified neutral professional:
  - (4) Consider the health, safety, welfare, and best interest of the child in all phases of the process, including interviews with parents, extended family members, counsel for the child, and other interested parties or collateral contacts:
  - (5) Strive to maintain the confidential relationship between the child who is the subject of an evaluation and his or her treating psychotherapist:
  - (6) Operate within the limits of the evaluator's training and experience and disclose any limitations or bias that would affect the evaluator's ability to conduct the evaluation.

- (7) Not pressure children to state a custodial preference.
- (8) Inform the parties of the evaluator's reporting requirements, including, but not limited to, suspected child abuse and neglect and threats to harm one's self or another person:
- (9) Not disclose any recommendations to the parties, their attorneys, or the attorney for the child before having gathered the information necessary to support the conclusion.
- (10) Disclose to the court, parties, attorney for a party, and attorney for the child conflicts of interest or dual relationships; and not accept any; appointment except by court order or the parties stipulation, and
- (11) Be sensitive to the socioeconomic, gender, race, ethnicity, cultural values, religious ,family structures, and developmental characteristics of the parties.
- A. Competence:
  - ◇ 1. NASW: 1.04 Competence
    - (a) Social workers should provide services and represent themselves as competent only within the boundaries of their education, training, license, certification, consultation received, supervised experience, or other relevant professional experience.

- (b) Social workers should provide services in substantive areas or use intervention techniques or approaches that are new to them only after engaging in appropriate study, training, consultation, and supervision from people who are competent in those interventions or techniques.
- A. Competence:
  - ◇ While developing new skills in specialty areas, marriage and family therapists take steps to ensure the competence of their work, and to protect clients from possible harm. Marriage and family therapists practice in specialty areas new to them only after appropriate education, training, or supervised experience.