

International Symposium Forensic Psychology in Family Law (FPFL)

References for the Presentation „Child Abuse Allegations in Custody Evaluations“

Dr. Taina Laajasalo, Adjunct Professor in Forensic Psychology (University of Helsinki)

Chief Specialist, Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare

October 28th, 2020

-
- Bala, N. M., Mitnick, M., Trocme, N., & Houston, C. (2007). Sexual abuse allegations and parental separation: Smokescreen or fire?. *Journal of Family Studies*, 13, 26-56. <https://doi.org/10.5172/jfs.327.13.1.26>
- Black, T., Saini, M., Fallon, B., Deljavan, S., Theoduloz, R., & Wall, M. (2016). The intersection of child custody disputes and child protection investigations: Secondary data analysis of the Canadian incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect (CIS-2008). *International Journal of Child and Adolescent Resilience*, 4, 143-157.
- Blasbalg, U., Hershkowitz, I., & Karni-Visel, Y. (2018). Support, reluctance, and production in child abuse investigative interviews. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 24, 518-527. <https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000183>
- Bergman, A. & Rejmer, A. (2017): Parents in child custody disputes: Why are they disputing?, *Journal of Child Custody*, 14, 134-150. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2017.1365320>
- Bow, J. N., Quinnell, F. A., Zaroff, M., & Assemany, A. (2002). Assessment of sexual abuse allegations in child custody cases. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 33, 566–575. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0735-7028.33.6.566>
- Brubacher, S. P. & Powell, M. B. (2019). Best-practice interviewing spans many contexts. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*, 8, 398-402. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jarmac.2019.07.007>
- Dale, M., & Gould, J. W. (2014). Commentary on “Analyzing child sexual abuse allegations”: Will a new untested criterion-based content analysis model be helpful?. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Practice*, 14, 169-182.
- Dammeyer, M. D. (1998). The assessment of child sexual abuse allegations: Using research to guide clinical decision-making. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 16, 21-34. [https://doi.org/10.1002/\(SICI\)1099-0798\(199824\)16:1<21::AID-BSL291>3.0.CO;2-K](https://doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1099-0798(199824)16:1<21::AID-BSL291>3.0.CO;2-K)
- Garber, B. (2020). Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Resist/ Refuse Dynamics: Confirmatory Bias and Abductive Inference in Child Custody Evaluations. *Family Court Review*, 58, 386-402. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fcre.12478>
- Gardner, R. A. (1987). The parental alienation syndrome and the differentiation between fabricated and genuine child sex abuse. NJ: Creative Therapeutics.

- Green, A. H. (1986). True and false allegations of sexual abuse in child custody disputes. *Journal of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry*, 25, 449-456.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S00027138\(10\)60001-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S00027138(10)60001-5)
- Hendershot, L. & Bow, J. N. (2013). Investigating sexual abuse allegations in child custody cases. *American Journal of Forensic Psychology*, 31, 37–53.
- Herman, S. (2009). Forensic child sexual abuse evaluations. In Kuenhle, K. & Connell, M. (Eds.) *The evaluation of child sexual abuse allegations, a comprehensive guide to assessment and testimony* (pp. 247-266), NJ: Wiley.
- Hershkowitz, I., Lamb, M. E., & Katz, C. (2014). Allegation rates in forensic child abuse investigations: Comparing the revised and standard NICHD protocols. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 20, 336–344. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0037391>
- Hershkowitz, I., Lanes, O., & Lamb, M. E. (2007). Exploring the disclosure of child sexual abuse with alleged victims and their parents. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 31, 111-123.
- Johnston, J. R. & Sullivan, M. J. (2020). Parental Alienation: In search of common ground for a more differentiated theory. *Family Court Review*, 58, 270-292.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/fcre.12472>
- Judge, A. M., & Ward, P. (2017). The perfect storm: High-conflict family dynamics, complex therapist reactions, and suggestions for clinical management. In A. M. Judge & R. M. Deutsch (Eds.), *Overcoming parent-child contact problems: Family-based interventions for resistance, rejection, and alienation* (p. 107–127). Oxford University Press.
- Kuehnle, K., & Connell, M. (2010). Child sexual abuse suspicions: Treatment considerations during investigation. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 19(5), 554-571.
- Laajasalo, T., Korkman, J., Pakkanen, T., Oksanen, M., Tuulikki, L., Peltomaa, E., & Aronen, E. T. (2018). Applying a research-based assessment model to child sexual abuse investigations: Model and case descriptions of an expert center. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice*, 18, 177-197. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24732850.2018.1449496>
- Lamb, M. E., Orbach, Y., Hershkowitz, I., Esplin, P. W., & Horowitz, D. (2007). Structured forensic interview protocols improve the quality and informativeness of investigative interviews with children: A review of research using the NICHD Investigative Interview Protocol. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 31, 1201–1231. <https://doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2007.03.021>
- Leonoff, A., & Montague, R. (1996). *Guide to child custody assessments*. ON: Carswell.
- Otgaar, H. & Howe, M. (2019): When children’s testimonies are used as evidence: How children’s accounts may impact child custodial decisions. *Journal of Child Custody*, 15, 263-267.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2018.1568721>
- Priolo-Filho, S., Goldfarb, D., Shestowsky, D., Sampana, J., Williams, L. C., & Goodman, G. S. (2018). Judgments regarding parental alienation when parental hostility or child sexual

- abuse is alleged. *Journal of Child Custody*, 15, 302-329.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2018.1544531>
- Rohrbaugh, M., London, K., & Hall, A. K. (2016). Planning the forensic interview. In W.T. O'Donohue & M. Fanetti (Eds.), *Forensic Interviews Regarding Child Sexual Abuse* (pp. 197-218). Springer, Cham.
- Saini, M. A., Black, T., Fallon, B., & Marshall, A. (2013). Child custody disputes within the context of child protection investigations: Secondary analysis of the Canadian Incident Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect. *Child Welfare*, 92, 115-138.
- Saini, M., Black, T., Godbout, E., & Deljavan, S. (2019). Feeling the pressure to take sides: A survey of child protection workers' experiences about responding to allegations of child maltreatment within the context of child custody disputes. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 96, 127–133. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.11.044>
- Saini, M., Black, T., Lwin, K., Marshall, A., Fallon, B., & Goodman, D. (2012). Child protection workers' experiences of working with high-conflict separating families. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 34, 1309-1316. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2012.03.005>
- Saini, M., Johnston, J. R., Fidler, B. J., & Bala, N. (2016). Empirical studies of alienation. In L. Drozd, M. Saini, & Olesen, N. (Eds.), *Parenting Evaluations, Second Edition: Applied Research for the Family Court*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- Saini, M., Laajasalo, T., & Platt, S. (2020). Gatekeeping by allegations: An examination of verified, unfounded, and fabricated allegations of child maltreatment within the context of resist and refusal dynamics. *Family Court Review*, 58, 417-431. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fcre.12480>
- Schuman, D. C. (1986). False accusations of physical and sexual abuse. *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry & the Law*, 14, 5–21.
- Trocmé, N., & Bala, N. (2005). False allegations of abuse and neglect when parents separate. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 29, 1333-1345. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2004.06.016>
- Turoy-Smith, K. M., Brubacher, S. P., Earhart, B. & Powell, M. B. (2018): Eliciting children's recall regarding home life and relationships. *Journal of Child Custody*, 15, 349-368. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2018.1530629>
- van der Wal, R. C., Finkenauer, C., & Visser, M. M. (2019). Reconciling mixed findings on children's adjustment following high-conflict divorce. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 28, 468-478.