

Extract from Initial Consultation Report

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Client Identification:

1. As a clinical psychologist with family therapy, my client is always the child.
2. When there is court involvement, I acquire a second client, the court.
3. The parent is third on this list of clients. My first obligation is always to the child, and I have a co-equal obligation to the court. These professional obligations are consistent and are without conflict, because the court would never ask me to do something that harmed the child.

Initial Impressions:

1. Treatment Team

You will need a local area family therapist to take charge of treatment. You will need an attorney to obtain the court orders needed as things move forward. The involvement of an attorney will be expensive, and the non-availability of active legal support because of the financial expense required may become a limiting factor to achieving solution. Navigating the legal system requires a good attorney.

From a review of Dr. Jones' vitae, she has no background in attachment pathology and the attachment system, no background in family systems therapy, and no background in personality pathology.

1980-1990: Private practice: forensic psychology, sexual abuse focus.

1990-2000: Private practice: forensic psychology, sexual abuse focus

2000-2010: Private practice: forensic psychology, sexual abuse focus

2010-present: Private practice: forensic psychology, sexual abuse focus

She does not have the necessary professional knowledge in attachment pathology, in family systems therapy, and in personality disorder pathology to be working with this type of attachment-related family pathology. Of even greater concern is that she has provided professional services to this category of attachment-related family pathology for 40 years without having acquired the professional-level knowledge required to assess, diagnose, and treat the pathology. This suggests a profound degree of professional sloth across 40 years. To never have acquired knowledge of attachment pathology when treating an attachment bonding pathology, to never have acquired knowledge of family systems therapy when treating family pathology, and to never have acquired knowledge of personality pathology when assessing, diagnosing, and treating personality pathology in a

family context is appalling professional sloth that I would consider professional fraud for practice beyond the boundaries of professional competence.

To now rely on Dr. Jones, given her demonstrated career of profound sloth and her 40 year personal acceptance of ignorance, is highly questionable. The difficulty will be who will replace her. Dr. Jones is the abysmally poor level of “professional” fielded for you by forensic psychology, and the field of forensic psychology has a lock on your children and families – no clinical psychologist can treat your children and families or we run the risk of losing our license (if a clinical psychologist makes any recommendation for custody or visitation we’ll lose our license; forensic psychology has a stranglehold on your families because you are financially lucrative at \$20,000 to \$40,000 per custody evaluation, and Dr. Jones has been at the trough for 40 years. It is a financial racket pure and simple, and Dr. Jones in her 40 years of private practice ignorance has availed herself of the feast that financially feeding off of your families provides).

Personally, I would prefer a fresh out of doctoral program psychologist, a Psy.D. preferably – in the early 30s age range, early career and willing to acquire knowledge to perform at a high level of professional practice. Neither Jones nor this young entry level psychologist have the necessary knowledge, but I’ve seen Jones, and she’s sloth and maintained ignorance for 40 years. At least with the entry level professional it’s ignorance from youth, not sloth – and a comfort with personal ignorance has yet to be confirmed as it is with Dr. Jones.

I’m reminded of the adage, “Don’t try to teach a pig to sing, it just frustrates you and annoys the pig.” We will start with pig singing lessons. We will ask Dr. Jones to complete the Diagnostic Checklist (DC) regarding the child’s symptoms and the Parenting Practices Rating Scale (PPRS) regarding your parenting practices. We’ll see how she responds. This is as much an assessment of Dr. Jones as it is an assessment of your family.

Ultimately, we will get a mental health professional to provide us with accurate ratings on the *Diagnostic Checklist for Pathogenic Parenting* (DC) and the *Parenting Practices Rating Scale* for your parenting (PPRS). I am linking to my handout for consultation with family law attorneys:

Professional Consultation:

<http://www.drcachildress.org/asp/admin/getFile.asp?RID=199&TID=6&FN=pdf>

This will need to happen for your family, you will need to obtain an appropriate assessment of attachment-related pathology surrounding divorce (DC and PPRS), you will need to acquire an accurate diagnosis for the attachment pathology in the child (pathogenic parenting; cross-generational coalition; trauma reenactment narrative), and you will need a written treatment plan. Given the current abysmal state of forensic psychology, I strongly doubt you’ll find that. I would suggest moving outside forensic psychology. So even as we work with Jones (or try to), I would suggest you meet with young entry level psychologists, be pleasant not intense, we are recruiting young talent, don’t overwhelm them, allow them to be in charge... sort of... you are interviewing baseball pitching prospects for a pro contract, it’s entirely about whether your personal chemistry is right and if this is

somebody who takes professional psychology seriously, content knowledge can come down the line if you and the psychologist fit.

I'd prefer a psychologist, best is Psy.D., they are the pathology and psychotherapy specialists; they sacrificed training in research methodology (a Ph.D.) for additional training and education in pathology and psychotherapy (a Psy.D.). Master's level is okay, some of the best therapists I've ever worked with have been Master's level. Degree does not indicate skill. It's a ballpark (PsyD over PhD over Master's) but not a decider – comfort in the relationship is the decider.

Once we get additional information about Jones' quality (does she try to sing, does she provide us with the DC and PPRS?), then we move to the next level of Jones assessment, will she provide a written treatment plan? The next level after that is, will she Skype consult directly with Dr. Childress. I suspect that her narcissism and sloth will get the better of her at some point and she'll drop off, by her choosing (she'll probably say you're not following her treatment instructions because you have a new "theory" – Bowlby, Minuchin, Beck aren't theory, they're the rock-solid core of professional psychology. It just seems "new" to Dr. Jones because of her profound degree of ignorance that she's maintained for 40 years in the cesspool of forensic psychology, a financial feeding trough for unscrupulous "psychology" hucksters, charlatans, and frauds.

They don't know the attachment system yet they're treating attachment pathology, they don't know family systems therapy yet they're treating family pathology, they don't know personality pathology yet they're treating personality pathology; because they have exempted themselves from knowing anything because... they're "forensic psychologists" and forensic psychologists apparently are allowed to be stone-cold stupid. At this point, if you call yourself a forensic psychologist, you have to prove you're NOT stone-cold stupid – attachment system, family systems therapy, personality disorder pathology.

So begin thinking about your recruitment of a young entry-level psychologist to join your treatment team. Personal chemistry with you is more important than content knowledge, but there also needs to be an openness to learn (and to consult with Dr. Childress; that's where the content knowledge comes). You're assembling your treatment team, family therapist, content expert, family law attorney.

The parenting time coordinator is a gadfly. We'll bring her in check through the family therapist (Dr. Jones, or more likely the young early career psychologist), and we'll do it through the written treatment plan. So both Jones and the parenting time coordinator may be annoying to you, don't worry about it, they may not be with the team long, at least not when things start to move.

Final Point: Start Preparing Your Ground for the Child

When your daughter returns to re-bonding with you, it must be 100% about you loving the child, and zero percent about the child loving you. We'll get a good healthy bonded relationship, don't worry, but not from reaching into the child, but from allowing the child's authenticity.

Divorce ends the marriage, not the family. There will always be a family, functional or dysfunctional. In divorce, the family transitions to a separated family structure that is now united by the child. This places the child in an incredibly vulnerable position. The important thing to understand is that all spousal anger flows through the child in a separated family structure. It is toxic to the child. I don't care if the spousal anger is justified or not. All spousal anger goes through the child and it is toxic to the child.

I want you to understand these two slides from my current presentations.

The first shows how spousal forces of division and separation make the child's role as unifier increasingly hard. The child's role is to hold the family together while the parents are pumping forces of anger and separation wholesale into the family.

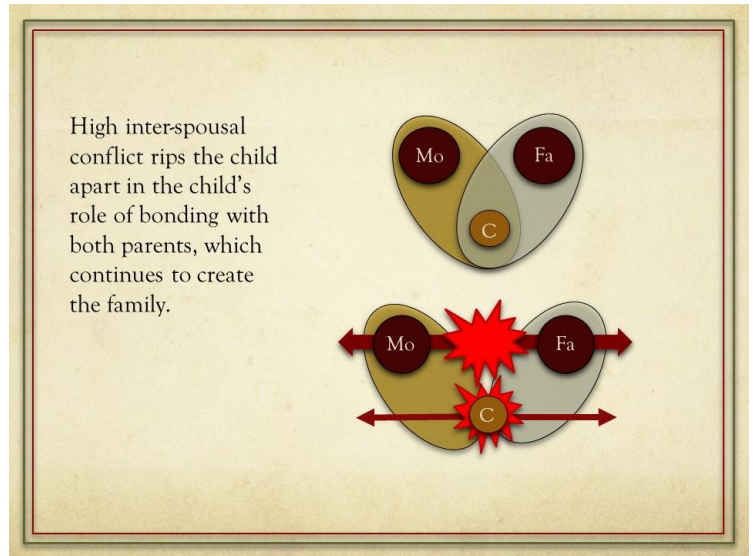
Either this destroys the child, or the child pops to one side of the spousal conflict, no longer able to hold the family together, the child chooses a side to save their psychological health.

The child will typically choose the parent who is most vulnerable (who needs them most), the child will choose the parent who is stronger and more dominating (who claims control of the child and can accomplish it), the child will choose the parent who is better at psychological control and manipulation of the child's emotions, and the child will choose the more dangerous parent (to remain safe from retaliation).

Study this picture of a healthy separated family structure. This is the goal. Every bit of anger and negativity passing between daddy and mommy must pass directly through the child. Do you see that?

Your anger may be justified. It will destroy your child. In the period of preparation for change and re-bonding, begin preparing you for your child's return. Prepare the bonding site, anger will prevent bonding, it blocks certain binding sites from availability.

I understand you have concerns regarding the mother's new boyfriend. If there are no direct threats for safety, then it's not your business. Mother has a right to her relationships. When you were husband-father,



what you thought mattered. In divorce of the spousal relationship – it no longer matters what you think of the mother, her choices... and her parenting – as long as there is no abuse threat. We'll make sure there is no abuse threat. That's the role of your local-area family therapist. The family therapist will meet with mom and boyfriend, will read and understand your concerns. We'll address any potential child abuse threat.

After that... welcome uncle bob to the family – crazy drug-abusing uncle bob. Wish mom wouldn't add him to the family, but it's her family too and she's free to create her side of the family in any way she wants, as long as it's not abusive to the child.

Now... that also sets you up in a position of trying to control mom's parenting or relationship choices by claiming "it's hurting the child."

Is it physical abuse? Sexual abuse? Domestic violence assault? Drug and alcohol abuse? None of those things... then it's not your business. Think of it as a delightful expansion of your children's cultural experience.

Your daughter didn't choose her mom. You made that choice. Who her mom is, that's your choice. Mom is who she is. If she's a trauma-abuse victim and survivor, she's trying to do the best she can to make it through life. Dang. Wish you'd made a better choice of moms for your daughter. But things are what they are. You chose this mom. You don't have the right to violate someone's autonomy – mom's autonomy. Mom can make the life-choices she chooses, that's the right of all of us.

She chooses a new relationship, for whatever reasons she wants, as long as it does not present a threat to the child... that's mom's right and we need to respect that right... because that's your child's mother and if you don't then the anger, hostility, and conflict this generates (justified or not) will emotionally and psychologically destroy your child.

I don't need to hear history of why you got together with your ex- and how bad she was and how she was responsible for the divorce and for all bad things... That's not a productive use of my time. What I'm prompting (solution focused because my client is your child), is for you to begin preparing the emotional entry landing site for your child and her ability to re-bond and re-connect with you. Anger will provide no port of entry ("I hide it from the child" – no, we don't. The child knows through a thousand communication channels).

When your daughter gets married, we want you to walk her down the aisle and for mom to be in the back room ahead of time helping your daughter get ready along with the bridesmaids, laughing and drinking champagne, and crazy uncle bob boyfriend will be sitting in the pew to the side.... And we want it to be 100% about your daughter. We don't want her to worry for an instant about having both mom and dad and boyfriend at her wedding, not even a whisper of concern... because it's all about her, her wedding day is all about her, not you, not mom, not crazy uncle bob boyfriend. It's about her. So you need to do whatever you have to do to make that happen, to clear up you so that when that day comes, there won't be a whisper of tension, in planning, at the ceremony, at the reception.

And when your daughter has her first baby, we want her husband in the delivery room, and mom and dad and crazy uncle bob boyfriend at the hospital waiting for the delivery, and when the baby has arrived, we want mom and dad to go into the delivery room with husband, and we want mom to take the baby in her arms and we want dad to go to his daughter and caress her face and offer pride and comfort, and after a few minutes we want dad to hold the baby and mom to caress... and we don't want an ounce of tension – not even a whisper – in that room. Mom and dad in the same room with crazy uncle bob boyfriend outside, and not even the barest whisper of a problem – because this is all about your daughter – not you – not mom – not crazy uncle bob boyfriend.

If you can't work it out, if you want to hold grievance and hurt and anger, justified or not, it will damage your daughter. I'm not here to judge the merits of grievance, my client is the child and maintained grievance and anger in the spousal arena hurts and damages the child. Look at how fragile that little girl is to ANY hostility and negative energy between her parents:



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