

C. A. CHILDRESS, Psy.D.

LICENSED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, PSY 18857

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10/4/18

Ms. Russell
Office Manager
Cornerstone Psychological Associates

Hello Ms. Russell,

This letter is to confirm the response communicated to me through you from Dr. Bennett made pursuant to my request for collaboration made under Standard 3.09 of the ethics code of the American Psychological Association seeking clarification on Dr. Bennett's perception of the child's symptoms and the father's (my client's) parenting practices:

3.09 Cooperation with Other Professionals

When indicated and professionally appropriate, psychologists cooperate with other professionals in order to serve their clients/patients effectively and appropriately.

Please inform Dr. Bennett that I consider his response of withholding vital treatment-important information from the father and from the requesting treatment team, clarifying Dr. Bennett's perception of the child's symptoms and the father's parenting, information necessary to secure and coordinate proper treatment for the child and family, to be in violation of Standard 3.09 of the APA ethics code.

As the office manager for the practice, you appear to be asserting a special exemption from the APA ethics code for a "forensic" psychologist that I am not aware of, something about Dr. Bennett not acting like a mental health professional when he conducts child custody evaluations. I am requesting citation of the legal statute exempting Dr. Bennett from the APA ethics code when he is conducting child custody evaluations. I will await citation of the legal statute covering Dr. Bennett withholding vital treatment-needed information from the father and from the treatment team who are tasked with treating the child and family.

As an involved psychologist on the treatment team, I am deeply concerned by Dr. Bennett's apparent violation of Standard 3.09 of the APA ethics code, and I am formally notifying Dr. Bennett of my concern pursuant to my professional obligations under Standard 1.04 of the APA ethics code. Withholding this vital information from the father regarding Dr. Bennett's perception of the child's symptoms and the father's parenting practices will likely cause harm to the child and father by preventing them from receiving the required treatment, because the treatment providers do not have the necessary information needed to begin treatment as a direct consequence of Dr. Bennett's refusal to cooperate with the treatment providers.

Thank you for your reply, Ms. Russell, please inform Dr. Bennett that the likely next step from the treatment team will be to ask the father and his legal representation to pursue a court order requiring Dr. Bennett's cooperation with the child's treatment team by disclosing child and family symptom information to the treatment team.

Dr. Bennett may wish to consider at this point, the likely response of the judge when told that Dr. Bennett refuses to cooperate with the treatment team who is seeking clarification regarding the child's symptoms and the father's parenting practices based the knowledge Dr. Bennett has as an involved mental health professional having conducted an extensive assessment of the family. Does Dr. Bennett reasonably think the judge is going to say that Dr. Bennett should not cooperate with the child's treatment team, or that Dr. Bennett should cooperate with the treatment team treating the child and family?

The father and his legal representation will then have the opportunity to consider whether any additional administrative oversight review of Dr. Bennett's professional standards of practice might be in order, since it seems excessive to require a patient to get a court order for cooperation with other mental health professionals "to serve their clients/patients effectively and appropriately" as mandated by Standard 3.09, and whether the added burden placed on the father of requiring that he obtain a court order (likely granted by the court) for disclosure of treatment-relevant information to the treatment team represents harm to the client, in violation of Standard 3.04 of the APA ethics code.

At this point, I consider my professional obligations under Standard 1.04 to be satisfied.

Ms. Russell, I am requesting that you please provide citation to the statute exempting Dr. Bennett from Standard 3.09 of the APA ethics code because he is a "forensic" psychologist.

Thank you and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Childress", written over a horizontal line.

Craig Childress, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychologist, PSY 18857

CORNERSTONE

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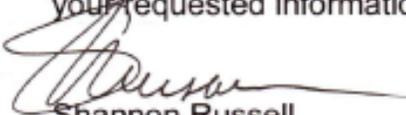
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October 3, 2018

Craig Childress, Psy.D.
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Dr. Childress:

We are in receipt of your letter dated 9/26/18 regarding Mr. [REDACTED] Dr. Bennett was appointed by Judge [REDACTED] Canyon County Idaho to perform a custody evaluation for Mr. [REDACTED] and his ex-wife. Dr. Bennett's role was as a forensic psychologist only, tasked to find the best custody plan for the children. At no time was Dr. Bennett acting as a mental health provider to Mr. [REDACTED] or his children. Dr. Bennett submitted his report to the court as ordered. Unfortunately, Dr. Bennett cannot complete your requested information due to the nature of his position in this case. Thank you.


Shannon Russell
Office Manager

Cornerstone Psychological Associates.