The Ackerman-Schoendorf Scales for Parent Evaluation of Custody (ASPECT)

A WPS TEST REPORT by Western Psychological Services

A Computerized Interpretation System
by Leigh Silverton, Ph.D., Marc Ackerman, Ph.D., & Kathleen Schoendorf, Psy.D.
Version 3.000

FAMILY ID NUMBER: 0003 NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 02
ANSWER SHEET NUMBER: 00002506 AGE OF OLDEST OR ONLY CHILD: 07 years
PROCESSING DATE: 06/08/2006 AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD: 05 years

MOTHER’S INFORMATION
AGE: 29 years EVALUATION DATE: 01/09/92
EDUCATION: 18 years NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES: 0
ETHNICITY: White LENGTH OF CURRENT MARRIAGE: 08 years
OCCUPATION: Business Manager/Lower Professional/Teacher

FATHER’S INFORMATION
AGE: 33 years EVALUATION DATE: 01/13/92
EDUCATION: 16 years NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES: 1
ETHNICITY: White LENGTH OF CURRENT MARRIAGE: 08 years
OCCUPATION: Administrative Personnel/Small Business Owner

INTERPRETATION OF THE ASPECT

The Ackerman-Schoendorf Scales for Parent Evaluation of Custody (ASPECT) interpretive report is a professional-to-professional consultation and should not be shown to the clients. It is intended to complement careful clinical assessment by a qualified mental health professional; it may also suggest further areas for evaluation. Guidelines for interpretation of this instrument, as well as a full discussion of its appropriate uses and limitations, can be found in the ASPECT Manual. (As used throughout this report, the word "child" may be interpreted as representing the majority of the children, when more than one child is involved in the custody evaluation.)

*************************************************************************
* Users of this WPS TEST REPORT should be familiar with the *
* information (including interpretation guidelines, psychometric *
* properties, and test limitations) presented in the ASPECT Manual *
* published by Western Psychological Services (Product No. W-273C). *
* This WPS TEST REPORT should be used only in conjunction with the *
* Manual. *
*************************************************************************
The figure below charts both parents' scores on the four ASPECT scales. The Parental Custody Index (PCI) is a weighted average of all three ASPECT subscales, indicating the extent to which each parent is an effective custodian of the child. The Observational Scale reflects the impression that each parent made on the examiner during the interview. The Social Scale denotes the quality of the social environment provided for the child by each parent. The Cognitive-Emotional Scale measures each parent's cognitive and affective capacity for parenting.

<table>
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<th>SCALE</th>
<th>RAW T %</th>
<th>PCI Score</th>
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**LEGEND**
- PCI - Parental Custody Index
- OBS - Observational Scale
- SOC - Social Scale
- COG - Cognitive-Emotional Scale
- M - Mother
- F - Father
The Parental Custody Index

Mother received a markedly elevated PCI score compared to father. This pattern of results suggests that mother is apt to show a greater number of effective parenting behaviors and capacities than father. Father’s PCI is in the average range. It ranks in the 46th percentile of those in the normative sample.

The mother’s PCI is in the significantly high range, suggesting that her parenting effectiveness, as assessed by the ASPECT, is very good. It ranks in the 96th percentile of those in the normative sample.

Observational Scale

The father’s score on the Observational Scale is in the low average range and ranks in the 31st percentile of those in the normative sample. According to the examiner, his strengths are that he was able to state the effects of the divorce on his child, was cooperative with the evaluation process, and was appropriately contained during the interview. In addition, he was appropriately attired at the interview, showed adequate hygiene, and was positively engaged with the child during the interview. Also, he sets appropriate limits for the child.

The mother’s score on the Observational Scale is in the average range and ranks in the 58th percentile of those in the normative sample. According to the examiner, her strengths are that she was able to state the effects of the divorce on her child, was cooperative with the evaluation process, and was appropriately contained during the interview. Furthermore, she was appropriately attired during the interview, showed acceptable hygiene, and was positively engaged with the child during the interview. Likewise, she sets appropriate limits for the child and has a realistic perception of her own capacities as a parent.
The father’s score on the Social Scale is in the low average range and ranks in the 18th percentile of those in the normative sample. According to the examiner, his strengths are that he provides an appropriate home environment for the child, is aware of developmental issues and can identify age-appropriate developmental milestones, and is sensitive to and able to identify the current and future needs of the child. Similarly, he is appropriately aware of information relevant to the child’s education, provides appropriate general hygiene training, and actively participates in the child’s education.

Moreover, the relationship between the father and the child appears to be close. Specifically, there appears to be open communication between the father and the child, a warm, positive feeling from the father to the child, and a warm, positive feeling from the child to the father.

In this regard, it is instructive to note that the child is able to identify valued attributes of the father. Likewise, personality testing suggests the child does not harbor angry feelings toward the father and the child does not feel threatened by the father. Father shows good indications of basic proper judgment. For example, he has never been arrested, does not show signs of serious alcohol abuse, and has never been charged with physical or sexual abuse.

The mother’s score on the Social Scale is significantly elevated and ranks in the 92nd percentile of those in the normative group, suggesting that she has very effective social interaction with the child. According to the examiner, her strengths are that she provides an appropriate home environment for the child, can draw support from her own social networks, and is aware of the resources within the community upon which she can draw. Beyond that, she is sensitive to the child’s need for time with father and does not sabotage the father’s interaction with the child, is aware of developmental issues and can identify age-appropriate developmental milestones, and is sensitive to and able to identify the current and future needs of the child. In addition, she is appropriately aware of information relevant to the child’s education, provides appropriate discipline for the child, and provides appropriate oral hygiene training. Also, she provides appropriate general hygiene training, has been cooperative with previous arrangements regarding custody, visitation, and placement, and actively participates in the child’s education. Furthermore, she showed appropriate motivation for seeking custody.

Moreover, the relationship between the mother and the child appears to be close. Specifically, there appears to be open communication between the mother and the child, a warm, positive feeling from the mother to the child, and a warm, positive feeling from the child to the mother.

In this regard, it is instructive to note that the child is placed next to the mother in the Draw-A-Family Test and the child is able to identify valued attributes of the mother. Likewise, personality testing suggests the child does not harbor angry feelings toward the mother and the child does not feel threatened by the mother. Mother shows good indications of basic proper judgment. For example, she has never been arrested, does not show signs of serious alcohol abuse, and has never been charged with physical or sexual abuse.
The father’s score on the Cognitive-Emotional Scale ranks in the 92nd percentile of those in the normative group, suggesting that he shows very good cognitive and affective capacities for parenting. Specifically, he is not naively guarded in responding to objective personality testing, is not defensive on personality testing, and shows no manifest signs of psychopathology on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI). Likewise, he shows no extreme elevation of scores on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), evidences good ego strength, and evidences good control. Similarly, he shows no signs of alcohol abuse, shows lucid thought processes and freedom from thought disorder, and shows a capacity for good reality testing on projectives. Beyond that, he is not guarded on projectives, has no history of psychiatric hospitalization, and is not currently taking psychiatric medications. In addition, he shows no history of substance abuse and does not depend upon the child to fulfill his own needs.

Father also shows many of the essential cognitive functions necessary for effective parenting. Specifically, his IQ is commensurate with that of the child’s, his reading level is adequate, and his social judgment, as reflected in his Comprehension Score on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Revised, is at least average.

The mother’s score on the Cognitive-Emotional Scale ranks in the 97th percentile of those in the normative group, suggesting that she shows very good cognitive and affective capacities for parenting. Specifically, she is not naively guarded in responding to objective personality tests, is not defensive on personality testing, and shows no manifest signs of psychopathology on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI). Also, she shows no extreme elevation of scores on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), evidences good ego strength, and evidences good control. Furthermore, she shows no signs of alcohol abuse, shows lucid thought processes and freedom from thought disorder, and shows a capacity for good reality testing on projectives. Likewise, she is not guarded on projectives, has no history of psychiatric hospitalization, and is not currently taking psychiatric medications. Similarly, she shows no history of substance abuse, does not depend upon the child to fulfill her own needs, and has resolved her own conflicts about the divorce.

Mother also shows many of the essential cognitive functions necessary for effective parenting. Specifically, her IQ is commensurate with that of the child’s, her reading level is adequate, and her social judgment, as reflected in her Comprehension Score on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Revised, is at least average.
Critical Differences

Although mother scores in the 58th percentile on the Observational Scale, her score on the Cognitive-Emotional Scale is significantly elevated. This suggests that, although she gives an immediate impression of being an average parent, her cognitive-emotional capacity is good. Care should be taken to note the full range of mother’s cognitive-emotional capacity in the evaluation of custody fitness.

Critical Items

Father
-----
He has been uncooperative with previous family court orders or other arrangements regarding custody, visitation, and placement.

Mother
-----
She shows no critical items.
DISPLAY OF ITEM RESPONSES

The following table lists the actual item responses for these clients. These are the responses that were taken from the Answer Sheet by the WPS TEST REPORT scanner to generate this report.

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As shown in the table above, 
( ) indicates a missing response; 
(*) indicates a multiple response.
Data was received for processing via WPS TEST REPORT Mail-in Service

*** End of Report ***