

Custody Evaluations & Testifying in Court

Marriage and Family Therapists serving in a clinical role must comply with the [AAMFT Code of Ethics](#) Principle 3.14, which states: "To avoid a conflict of interest, marriage and family therapists who treat minors or adults involved in custody or visitation actions may not also perform forensic evaluations for custody, residence, or visitation of the minor. The marriage and family therapist who treats the minor may provide the court or mental health professional performing the evaluation with information about the minor from the marriage and family therapist's perspective. For example if you choose to subpoena your therapist regarding custody arrangements your therapist will only be able to respond with "I have not conducted the evaluation necessary to provide an opinion on this issue, so I cannot answer the question." This is due to the above stated [AAMFT Code of Ethics](#).