

Increase Evaluator Competence, Avoid Preventable Errors, and Reduce Bias: To Decision Tree or Not?

*Symposium on psychological expertise and
psychosocial in family matters*

Leslie M. Drozd, PhD
leslie@lesliedrozdphd.com



Colloque sur l'expertise psychologique et psychosociale en matière familiale

Présenté par la Chaire d'excellence en enseignement UQTR
sur l'expertise psychologique et psychosociale en matière familiale


Les 9 et 10 février 2024

Événement tenu en comodalité
à l'Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec à Montréal et en ligne

Pour toute question : chaire.expertise.psy@uqtr.ca



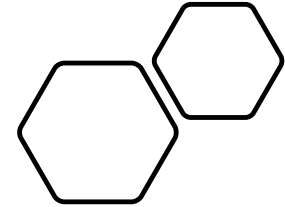
Université du Québec
à Trois-Rivières

Laboratoire de psychologie légale 

PARENTING PLAN & CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS

Using Decision Trees to
Increase Evaluator Competence
& Avoid Preventable Errors

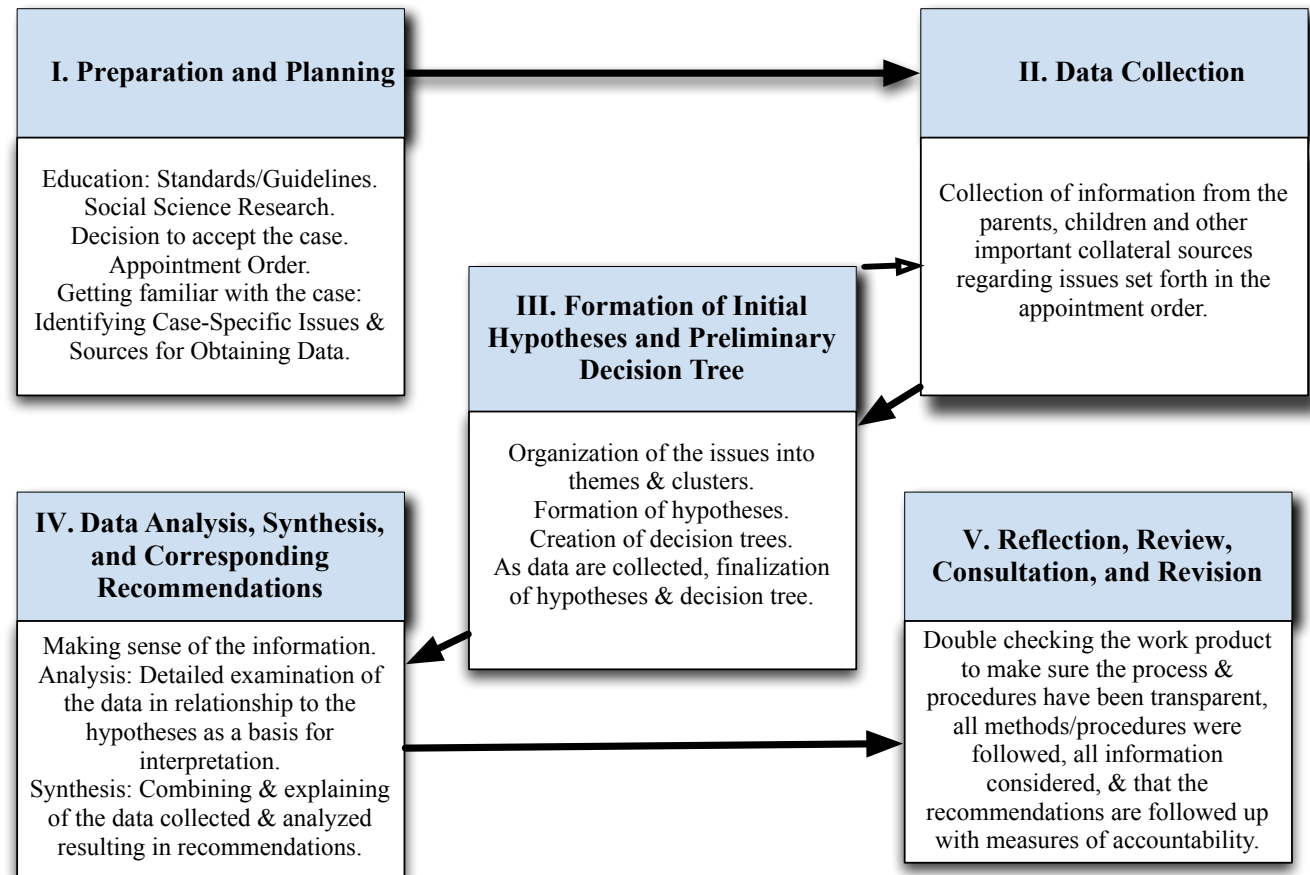
Leslie M. Drozd
Nancy W. Olesen
Michael A. Saini



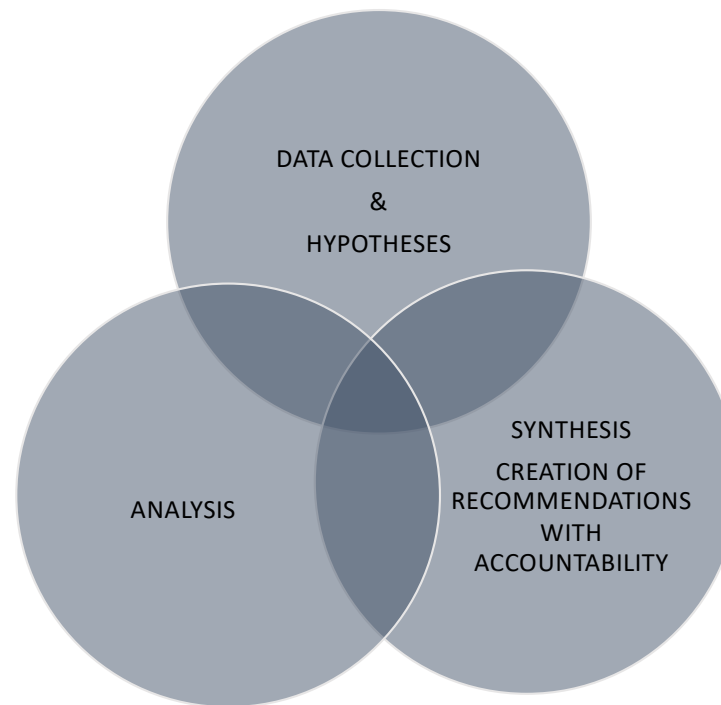
Parenting Plan & Child Custody Evaluation Decision Tree: Process & Procedures

February 9, 2024

Parenting Plan & Child Custody Evaluation Decision Tree: Process & Procedures



Keep them separate





STOP!

Don't miss anything..... whether
large or small, clearly visible or
hidden.....

AND
Question everything.....

AND
Consider everything with an
inquisitory & open mind





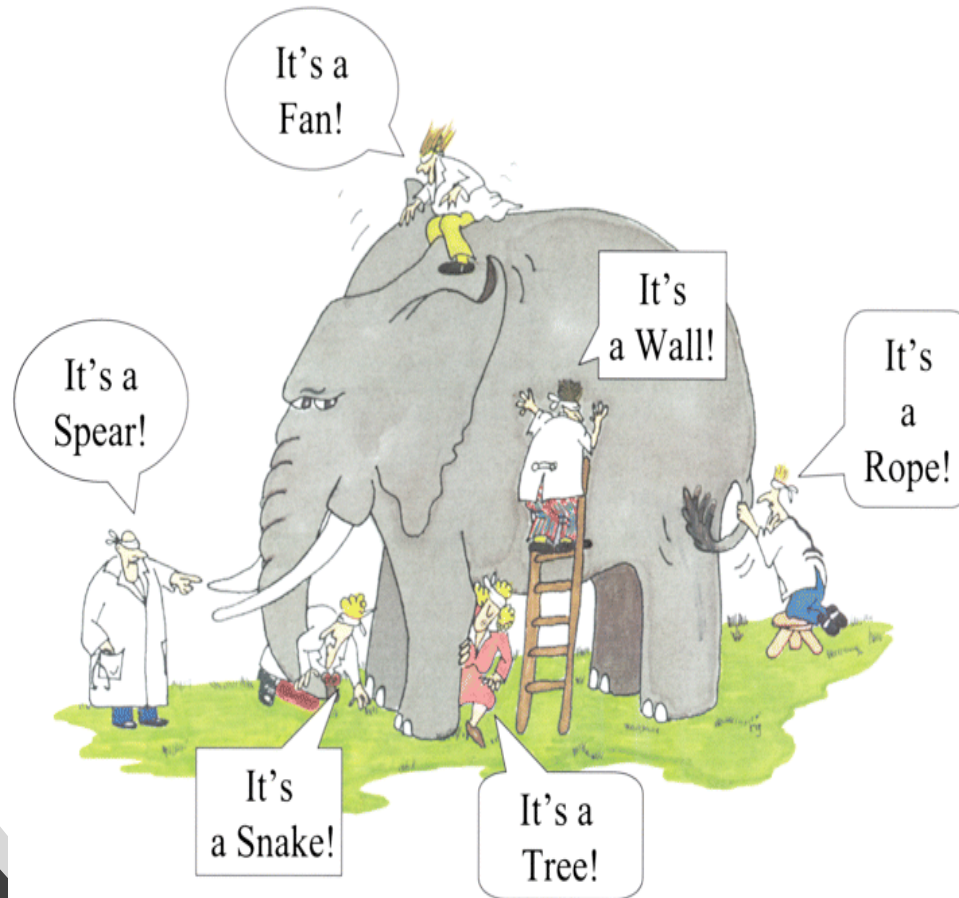
Keep an open mind

February 9, 2024

Drozdz (2024)

7

**A Narrow Perspective...
Results in Missing Pieces**





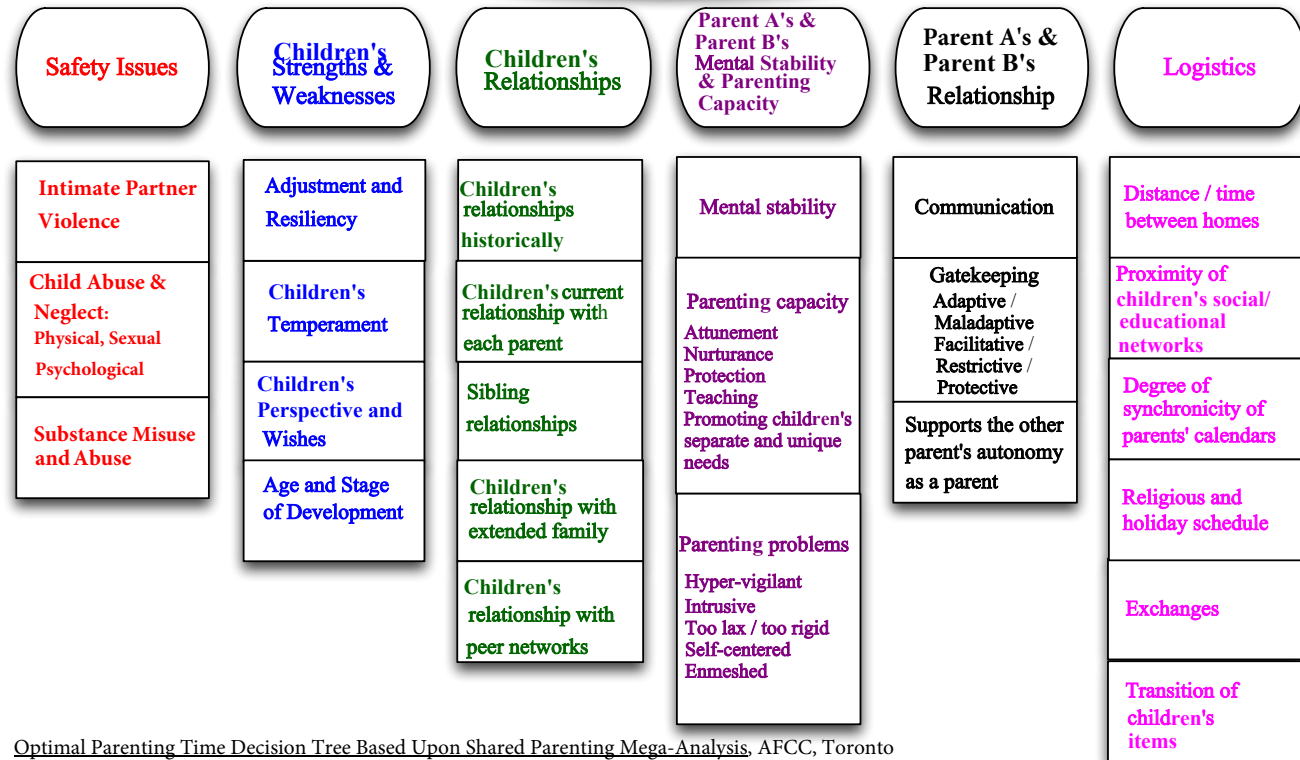
One step at a time

February 9, 2024

Drozd (2024)

Optimal Parenting Time Decision Tree

What is the optimal parenting time that the Child* should spend with each parent?



Optimal Parenting Time Decision Tree Based Upon Shared Parenting Mega-Analysis, AFCC, Toronto
 Leslie M. Drozd, Ph.D., Nancy W. Olesen, Ph.D., & Michael Saini, MSW, Ph.D. (2014)
 leslie@lesliedrozdphd.com; nancywolesen@gmail.com; michael.saini@utoronto.ca

**Analysis, Synthesis,
Recommendations,
& Accountability**

Matrices

Data Collection

Leslie M. Drozd, Ph.D., Nancy W. Olesen, Ph.D., & Michael Saini, MSW, Ph.D.(2013)
Parenting Plan & Child Custody Evaluations: Using Decision Trees to Prevent Evaluator Bias and Increase Evaluator Competence
Custody Evaluation Assessment Matrix I

Source of Concern	Mother's Information	Father's Information	Child 's Information	Collateral information	Evaluator Observations
Intimate Partner or Domestic Violence					
Child Abuse/Maltreatment and/or neglect					
Substance Abuse					
Mental health					
Child's adjustment					
Child's preferences					
Parenting Competency					
Co-Parenting Capacity					
Relocation					
Other Issues Relevant to Situation					

Analysis

Parenting Plan Evaluation Matrix II: Analysis

Source of Concern	Summary of Information	Analysis of Information: Reliability & Validity	Inferences: Safety, Access, Transitions, Decision-Making
Intimate Partner or Domestic violence			
Child Abuse/Maltreatment and/or Neglect			
Substance Abuse			
Mental Health			
Parenting Competency			
Co-parenting Capacity			
Relocation			
Other Issues			

Leslie M. Drozd, Ph.D., Nancy W. Olesen, Ph.D., & Michael Saini, MSW, Ph.D.(2013)
 Parenting Plan & Child Custody Evaluations: Using Decision Trees to Prevent Evaluator Bias and Increase Evaluator Competence

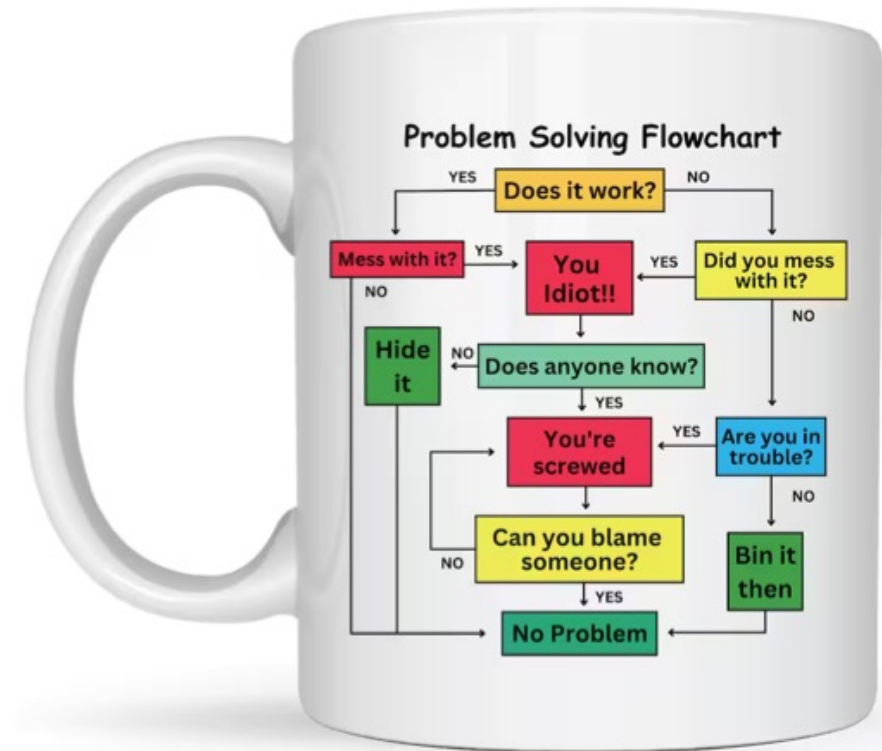
- **Synthesis:**
- **Creation of Recommendations**

Data Matrix III: Analysis, Synthesis, Recommendations, & Accountability

Themes (Level II Inferences: Analysis) [List Hypotheses under each theme.]	Additive? Synergistic? Antagonistic? Direction? (Level III Inferences: Analysis)	Parenting Plan Implications and Recommendations (Level IV Inferences: Synthesis)	Accountability
Safety			
Child's Issues			
Parent's Issues			
Children's preferences			
Parenting Competency			
Co-parenting Capacity			
Gatekeeping			
Relocation			
Etc.			
	Leslie M. Drozd, Ph.D., Nancy W. Olesen, Ph.D.] & Michael Saini, MSW, Ph.D.(2013)		
Parenting Plan & Child CustodyEvaluations: Using Decision Trees to Prevent Evaluator Bias and Increase Evaluator Competence			

What's Your Way?

- Know yourself well enough to create your own way & your own process to.....
- Increase Evaluator Competence, Avoid Preventable Errors, and Reduce Bias



Contact Information

Leslie M. Drozd, Ph.D.

Seattle, Washington

Email:

leslie@lesliedrozdphd.com

