
Self-assessment in relation to a specific piece of research

Use this self-audit tool to assess whether you feel knowledgeable in the area of research you wish to draw upon in the family court. It will be worth documenting this so you can use it later to show how your learning is progressing. The exercise should also help you prepare for cross-examination.

The area of research I wish to use in my statement is:

Questions about this piece of research:

- What do I know about the author(s) and who commissioned the research?
- When was the research study undertaken and published?
- Was it in a peer-reviewed publication?
- Where was the study undertaken?
- What other contextual issues are relevant for me to consider?
- What is the theoretical basis of this piece of research?
- What methods were used?
- What was the scale of the study?
- Do I know if this research has been used to support similar cases?
- Is this research cited regularly?
- What do I know about theoretical standpoints or particular studies that might counter these findings?
- Do other studies support the findings of this piece of research?
- What weight should be given to this piece of research in relation to all the other evidence?
- What is meaningful in the context of this case?
- What were the particulars of the case of this study? E.g. for which children? parenting characteristics?