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# MMPI-2®

MINNESOTA MULTIPHASIC PERSONALITY INVENTORY  
Scoring and Narrative Reports

Name:	Sample Custody Report
Gender:	Female
Age:	40
Marital Status:	Separated
Education:	15
Test Administered:	Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory(MMPI-2®)
Administered by:	Zachary Sample
Test Date:	February 26, 2021
Processed:	August 03, 2021

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# CUSTODY REPORT

## VALIDITY

**Morally Proper Responding:** She admitted scattered minor faults and shortcomings on the MMPI-2 that many respondents--especially child custody litigants--typically tend to deny. Based on scales L, Sd, and a part of K that is not attributable to socioeconomic status.

**Subtle Intentional Minimizing:** There were no indications of any general attempt to consciously disguise interpersonal discomforts or to minimize emotional distresses in her approach to the MMPI-2. Based mainly on the Mp scale, secondarily on scales S, Sd, and a part of K that is not attributable to socioeconomic status.

**Atypical and Deviant Responding:** Her scores on the scales measuring unusual responding and overreporting of pathology were well within acceptable limits. There were no indications of any systematic attempt to exaggerate her level of emotional distress or to malingering psychopathology. Based mainly on scales F and Ds and secondarily on scales Fb, Fp, and the difference of raw F minus raw K.

**Positive Social Confidence and Self-Esteem:** The pattern of scores suggests an above average level of social effectiveness and positive belief in herself. She may be described by such terms as poised, persuasive, or as otherwise having proficient social skills. She might also be seen as generally productive, showing initiative, and/or as arousing of liking in others. This is above average as compared to a sample of child custody litigants. Thus, her elevation of scale K predicts a generally effective adjustment and positive self-confidence. Her K score is not the product of appreciable defensiveness or of an attempt to "fake good". Based mainly on Block's Ego Resiliency scale (the best MMPI measure I can find for general likableness) and scale K, and secondarily on the Ss scale, ego strength, Do (as autonomy), and an absence of overly self-favorable responding.

## PERSONAL STYLE

**Cheerful vs. Guilt Issues, Depressed:** On the balance she tests as rather consistently cheerful and optimistic. Individuals with her makeup tend to sustain relatively good physical health and to recover fairly quickly from transitory illnesses as well as rebounding from personal losses more generally. Based mainly the elevation of scale 2--D, with small additional weights for the deepening effects of scales 7--Pt and 8--Sc and low elevations on 9--Ma.

**Energy Level: Slow Pace vs. High Energy:** She tests as having an about average level of activity and energy, as

neither lacking in energy nor as overly driven. Based strongly on scale 9--Ma with secondary weights on the Ma--2 subscale, the type A scale, 9--Ma greater than 4--Pd, and an energizing aspect of 3--Hy greater than 2--D.

Denying and Repressive vs. Frank and Candid: Her makeup includes mildly repressive and denying elements. That is, she would be seen as preferring not to engage antagonistic confrontations or perhaps even as becoming physiologically upset when forced to confront someone's anger at her. At times her attitudes would be seen as having a "Pollyanna" tendency, wishing to look the other way in order not to have to face uncomfortable problems. Based mostly on scale 3--Hy and additionally on indices of repressiveness, i.e., Hy--Subtle and the Repression--Sensitization scale, and the denial elements of scale L.

Level of Health Concerns: Her responses suggest a relatively limited amount of concern about or attention to her own physical health. This would not rule out occasional lapses in her attentiveness to her child(ren)'s physical well-being when she felt other interests or problems to be urgently pressing. Based centrally on 1--Hs plus some weights on Hy--obvious and the primacy (or not) of Hs in the code.

Awareness of Her Potential for Interpersonal Provocation: She appears to have an about average balance of times when she is aware versus when she fails to appreciate how her reactions bother or annoy others. The awareness of interpersonally provocative behaviors is assessed primarily by scores on the Control (Cn) scale. High scorers are typically able to put up a facade and to successfully hide provocative thoughts and aggressive impulses; low scorers have self-justified good intentions with a limited awareness of "bugging" others, this latter being the frequent direction of custody litigant responses. There is also a small influence by weights on L and Mf masculine. Clinical confirmations of these interpretations of Cn have been remarkably strong and consistent.

Oriented Toward Own Agenda vs. Incorporates Others' Interests: She is likely to see things in terms of her own agenda and personal interests. Momentarily genuine expressions of empathy may not dependably guide and restrain her future behavior. She might be inattentive to or even ignore the interests of others--possibly including those of her own child(ren)--when she felt seriously threatened or blocked. Based strongly on 4--Pd and secondarily on 9--Ma, with an additional weight on how much 4--Pd is predominant in the profile, a small weight on a psychotic tilt in the profile (internally driven ideation), and adjustments for defensive covering over.

Social Shyness vs. Extroversion: She tests as in the ambivert or balanced range, neither particularly extroverted nor introverted. Primarily based on the score on the O--Si scale with small adjustments for the shyness content scale (SOD) regarding visibility of the trait and K for consciously trying to appear social and gregarious.

Level of Day-to-Day Organization: Her scores indicate a quite positive and well above average level of

immediate personal organization. This anticipates independent and competent effectiveness in many different situations. She would waste little time and energy in worrying or in ineffective or self-distracting activities. Basically the ego strength scale with adjustments for the interference of anxiety (Welsh A) and K to assess for an exaggerated assertion of high or low competence.

## ADULT ROLE MODELING

General Emotional Threshold: Her balance between the amount and intensity of the emotional feelings she experiences and expresses versus how much she restrains or inhibits is about average for the MMPI-2 normative sample, although she is less restrained in this respect than average for child custody litigants. The intensity of a child's emotionality per se should not be problematic for her.

The larger weight for this variable is on Welsh's scale R, on which high scores anticipate a constriction of one's engagement with one's emotions, i.e., less open and spontaneous expression, briefer intervals of expression or outbursts, and degrees of a general inhibition; low scores anticipate relatively immediate if not ongoing emotional reactivity, the person's emotions being relatively obvious and present. Minor weights are for the modulating effects of higher K and disinhibition of lower K scores, the emotionally outgoing quality reflected in low scores on Block's Ego Control (EC--5) scale, and the emotional activation (or not) of scale 9--Ma.

Potential for Self-Centered Actions vs. Other-Centered Reactions: When stressed or threatened, she could pursue her self-interests in urgent or even dramatic ways, more strongly than average for the child custody litigant sample. In past experiences she may have felt that she has never gotten what she wanted unless she went after it. Such experiences could lower her restraints on her social forwardness whenever she feels her interests are likely to be blocked. She may show somewhat less than normally expected anticipation of the adverse consequences of her actions on others or even what might be seen as occasional failures to consider usual social expectations. Based substantially on scales 9--Ma and 4--Pd, the "9--4" code just within or close to the normal range being the prototype of the DSM criteria for Narcissism. Several pages of algorithms then include the contributions of coding (rank ordering) effects among the eight basic clinical scales.

Externalizing--Internalizing: She tests as persistently tending to see her problems as external to herself, as resulting from the actions of others, and usually as resolvable only as others may change. The admission of personal shortcomings or actions for which she could be blamed may be highly vulnerable for her due to past experiences when such admissions were turned against her in what were experienced as emotionally crushing or heartless attacks. Focusing on the deficiencies of others may be almost the "only safe way to go". This is based on Welsh's I--E Ratio (internalization--externalization), which is the combined sum of the T--scores on scales 3--Hy, 4--Pd, and 9--Ma as externalizing divided by the sum of the T--scores on scales 1--Hs, 2--D, and 7--Pt as internalizing. This has been expanded to cover a wider range of code positions of these scales along with other small weights.

Linear Focus Under Stress vs. Strained Reasoning: Her scores indicate a potential for some peculiarities or unusual shifts in her stream of thought. When she feels threatened, her ideas may be oddly connected and possibly difficult to follow. At times others may find her behaviors poorly judged or somehow less than appropriate to the circumstances. Some individuals with this pattern can identify closely (occasionally too closely) with children and their vulnerabilities, but if there were any indications of mean or punitive behavior, this latter--as well as the variations of her thinking--would need to be evaluated. Based on scales 6--Pa, 8--Sc, and the Neurotic--Psychotic Index (L. Goldberg).

Interpersonal Functioning: Anxious vs. Self-Comfortable: Her responses suggest a low and non-interfering overall level of state anxiety as compared to the MMPI-2 normative sample. Although this is a quite minimal level of interpersonal anxiety, it is still about equal to the average level volunteered by child custody litigants. Overall, she presented herself as being relatively poised and socially effective and as tending to be interpersonally comfortable. The primary weight is the Welsh scale A, Anxiety, elevations on which include a substantial element of social impairment; there are also adjustments for K, for scores on Block's Ego Resiliency (ER--S), and for the ANX content scale.

Ability to Let Go, to Forgive and Forget: Her scores suggest repetitive difficulties in being able to forgive and forget. With particular and narrowly defined values as to what is right and wrong in marital conduct, she would readily focus on specific past occasions when she felt inconsiderately or cruelly hurt. Such self-righteous resentments could then persistently interfere with her ability to let go and to move on with her life. The parental modeling of intensely judgmental attitudes could lead to imitative judgmentalness by a child, especially when that child's expectations or wants were frustrated. Most of 12 summed weights involve scale 6--Pa, with special emphasis on the self-righteousness of the Pa3 subscale and the wounded hurt quality of Pa2, as well as the position of scale 6 in the code and the degree to which it is "spiked" above the other scales.

## CONTROL ISSUES

Under-controlled and Ascendant vs. Self-Constrained and Rule-Bound: Compared to the MMPI-2 sample, her controls appear neither too strong and rigid nor too lax and weak; however, her self-presentation suggests that she is a good bit less strictly self-controlled than would be characteristic of the self-presentation of the average child custody litigant. Self-expression versus social restraint and conformity should be fairly well balanced over time. Based on the weighting of a series of scales: Responsibility (Re), Block's Ego Control--5 (EC--5), the properness of the L scale, the righteousness of the Pa3 subscale, and the Overcontrolled Hostility scale (O--H).

Low vs. High Decision Control needs: Her scores indicate relatively strong needs to make her own decisions and to have "veto rights" over decisions that would affect or control her. Others may find her more controlling of them than they want or feel necessary and dislike an inequality of power in their relationships with her.

Based in part on a series of scales, high Dominance--Autonomy (Do), low Dependency (Dy), the righteous--judgmental aspect of Pa3, and the control aspect of Ma3 subscale. In addition a long complex of weights adds in the code--rank positions of scales 3--Hy, 6--Pa, and 9--Ma, reflecting the three pairwise code combinations which are most characterized by major control issues.

Potential for Antisocial Conduct: The general potential for antisocial behavior appears about average for both the MMPI-2 normative sample and the child custody litigation cases. No special risks would be indicated unless there were some unexpectedly aggressive event in her history; if there were such an event and given her reasonably high threshold for aggression, the level of provocation might have been especially great. Essentially the elevations on scales 4--Pd, 8--Sc, and 9--Ma, the three way combination of which is clearly the antisocial pattern on the MMPI-2, plus minor adjustments for inhibitory factors.

Possible Temper Control Problems: Her scores indicate a quite serious risk of loss of control over her temper. Occasions when she felt unfairly or wrongly treated would be particularly likely to have triggered any past outbursts. Based mainly on elevations on the "temper control triad": 4--Pd, 6--Pa, and 9--Ma with secondary adjustments for alcohol/drug abuse and for the overcontrol and explosive potentials of the O--H scale; 34 steps of weights.

Vulnerability to Chemical Dependency: She obtained an about average score on indices for chemical dependency (primarily the MAC--R alcoholism scale together with the AAS items). Although her scores would not definitively rule out problems with chemical agents, her individual item responses are not seriously suggestive of long--term chemical dependence. This is mainly the Mac--R scale with secondary adjustments from the Addiction Admission Scale (AAS) and from 49/94 and 47/74 codes.

## PARENT-CHILD INTERACTIONS POTENTIALS

Quality of Parent-Child Bonding: The depth of her parent--to--child(ren) bonding appears likely to be mostly adequate but sometimes uneven. Observed occasions of positive parent--child interactions are not a guarantee of uncondition parental love; an affection--hungry child can be quite responsive to more than usually received care and attention. At other times her personal interests may have overridden the interests of the child(ren). Any identifiable past occasions when the child's attachment might have been dampened or to a degree turned off in response to less than then--needed nurturance and protection or possibly some underlying degree of indifference to the child's welfare would merit careful consideration. Such "turning off" moments can have adverse effects on the child's longterm capacity to sustain stable interpersonal bonds. Based largely on both the absolute elevation of 4--pd and the relative (code) elevation; minor adjustments for scales 8--Sc, 9--Ma, and Neurotic--Psychotic Index (Goldberg). Although Pd has many expressions depending on the scales with which is combined, it nevertheless has a central focus on the quality---or impairment---of attachment. (Megargee et al.

demonstrated this dramatically with their "spike 4" prisoner code as the most completely unattached and never bonded of all prisoner codetypes).

**Risk of Alienation of Affection:** She tests as persistently disposed to dichotomize someone or various others as either allies for her or as enemies against her. Thus, she could be very quickly sensitive to a child's comments that favored her former spouse over her. This in turn could directly lead to a perception that the former spouse was attempting to alienate the child's (children's) affections. If this happened, then her efforts to counteract this would have directly alienating effects against the other parent. In summary, her potential for reacting in alienating ways could derive from sincere perceptions (whether accurate or not) that the doings of the other spouse had to be counterbalanced.

It should be emphasized that this does not demonstrate alienation as an ongoing issue. That would need observation of confirming behaviors such as how she puts down the other parent or acts to undermine the authority and worthiness of that parent in the eyes of the child(ren). More primarily, it would need for the evaluator to record occasions when the child(ren) expressed such attitudes spontaneously and without parental cueing. Rather, her score on the alienation variable should be viewed as a vulnerability or a potential reaction to intensely threatening circumstances. Based primarily on scale 6--Pa and the self-righteous subscale Pa3, with small adjustments for whichever of the 7 basic clinical scales the Pa scale is combined when 6--Pa is first or second in the code.

**Presentation as a Parent: Role-Played Virtue vs. Sincerity:** Her presentation as a parent is likely to be generally honest and accurate as best she perceives the facts and situation and allowing for the pressures and demands of the circumstances. However, this would not rule out possible biases in her perceptions as a result of her personal attitudes and issues. This combines the absolute elevations of scales 3--Hy and 4--Pd with their code rankings along with minor adjustments for the Control (Cn) and O--H scales. This is to call attention to the ability of the people with 34/43 patterns to role--play ideal parenting and artfully cover over occasions of personal egocentrism, indifference to the child's distress, and abruptly punitive reactions.

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No clinical or judicial decisions should be made from this information alone. This material is only intended to facilitate the individual evaluation process by providing an extended set of hypotheses for clinical exploration. The possible behavioral tendencies noted here should be confirmed, disconfirmed, or otherwise qualified for this individual by the primary clinical evaluator or other appropriate test-knowledgeable persons.

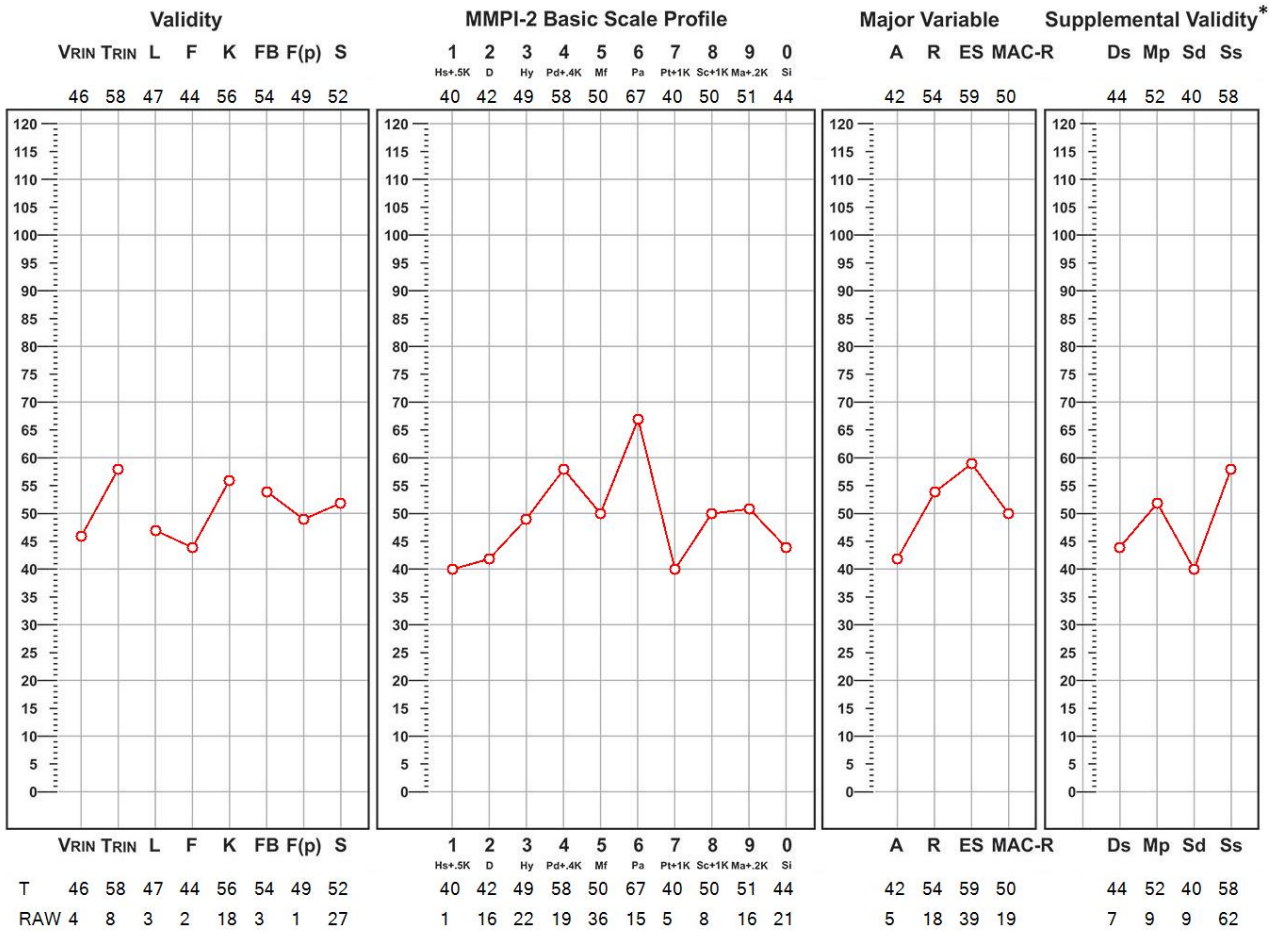
The validity of these ratings derives from two general sources. The first is the decades of research on the basic scales of the MMPI and MMPI-2, on the patterns of interrelationships among these scales, and on information about the wide range of supplemental scales that have additionally been developed. The second source is the

consulting and clinical experience in child custody cases of the author, Alex B. Caldwell, Ph.D.. The ratings are not based on research that is specific to these characteristics among child custody litigants because no such body of research exists. Thus, the MMPI-2 is applicable to child custody determinations to the extent that MMPI and MMPI-2 results in general are pertinent to the questions asked in such evaluative procedures.

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MMPI-2 Code ' 6 - 4 9 5 8 / 3 0 2 1 7 :



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	RAW	K	RAW+K	T
?	0			
L	3			47
F	2			44
K	18			56
1-(Hs)	1	9	10	40
2-(D)	16			42
3-(Hy)	22			49
4-(Pd)	19	7	26	58
5-(Mf)	36			50
6-(Pa)	15			67
7-(Pt)	5	18	23	40
8-(Sc)	8	18	26	50
9-(Ma)	16	4	20	51
0-(Si)	21			44

## 2-D and Subscales

		RAW	T
D	(full scale)	16	42
D1	Subjective depression	3	39
D2	Indecision-retardation	6	51
D3	Health pessimism	3	48
D4	Mental dullness	1	43
D5	Brooding, loss of hope	0	37

## 3-Hy and Subscales

		RAW	T
Hy	(full scale)	22	49
Hy1	Denies social anxiety	6	61
Hy2	Need for affection	8	55
Hy3	Lassitude - malaise	1	43
Hy4	Somatic complaints	1	41
Hy5	Inhibits aggression	4	54

## 4-Pd and Subscales

		RAW	T
Pd	(full scale)	19	58
Pd1	Family discord	1	44
Pd2	Authority problems	4	61
Pd3	Social disinhibition	5	58
Pd4	Social alienation	6	60
Pd5	Self-alienation	2	43

## 5-Mf and Subscales

		RAW	T
Mf	(full scale)	32	0
GM	Gender masculine	32	55
GF	Gender feminine	39	53

## 6-Pa and Subscales

		RAW	T
Pa	(full scale)	15	67
Pa1	Persecutory ideas	7	81
Pa2	Poignant sensitivity	1	40
Pa3	Moral righteousness	6	55

## 8-Sc and Subscales

		RAW	T
Sc	(full scale)	8	50
Sc1	Social alienation	4	53
Sc2	Emotional alienation	0	40
Sc3	Ego defect, cognitive	1	49
Sc4	Ego defect, conative	0	39
Sc5	Defective inhibition	1	46
Sc6	Sensorimotor dissociation	1	45

## 9-Ma and Subscales

		RAW	T
Ma	(full scale)	16	51
Ma1	Opportunism	2	54
Ma2	Psychomotor acceleration	5	50
Ma3	Imperturbability	2	43
Ma4	Ego inflation	4	56

## 0-Si and Subscales

		RAW	T
Si	(full scale)	21	44
Si1	Shyness and self-consciousness	1	38
Si2	Social avoidance	3	51
Si3	Alienation - self and others	2	41

## Major Clinical Variables

	RAW	T
ES Ego strength	39	59
MAC-R Potential alcoholism	19	50
AAS	2	50
Mt College maladjustment	7	42
N-P Neurotic-psychotic profile balance		75

## Validity &amp; Stability

	RAW	T
VRIN Response inconsistency	4	46
TRIN T-F inconsistency	8	58F
F-back Rare answers - back	3	54
F(p) Psychiatric infrequency	1	49
S Superlative self-presentation	27	52

## Interpersonal Style Variables

	RAW	T
O-H Overcontrolled hostility	17	63
Ho Cynical hostility	15	47

## Distress-Control

	RAW	T
PK PTSD	4	43

## Content Scales

	RAW	T
HEA Health concerns	1	36
DEP Depression	0	34
FAM Family problems	6	50
ASP Antisocial practices	8	54
ANG Anger	4	45
CYN Cynicism	9	50
ANX Anxiety	9	55
OBS Obsessiveness	2	41
FRS Fears - phobias	4	43
BIZ Bizarre mentation	5	61
LSE Low self-esteem	5	51
TPA Type A	6	45
SOD Social discomfort	5	46
WRK Work interference	5	45
TRT Negative treatment indicators	2	43

## Supplemental Scales\*

	RAW	T
Ds Overemphasize-fake sick	7	44
Mp Consciously fake good	9	52
Sd Consciously fake good	9	40
Ss SES identification	62	58
Ch Correction for H	16	52
Rc Retest-consistency	25	53
Ic Retest-item change	14	44
Tc Retest-score change	10	43
ER-S Ego resiliency	22	58
EC-5 Ego control	13	47
ORIG Need novelty	17	45
INT Abstract interests	49	51
Do Need for autonomy	17	53
Dy Need reassurances	9	40
Pr Intolerance	12	56
Re Value rigidity	17	38
Et Ethnocentrism	7	41
St Status mobility	20	57
R-S Repression-sensitization	18	40
Lbp Low back pain	8	46
Ba Good teamworker	49	58
Ca Caudality-distress	4	40
Cn Control-facade	19	45
So-r Life as desirable	33	58
Th-r Tired housewife	9	43
Wb-r Worried breadwinner	10	44

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