

IASA's 10-Year Celebration

Florence, June 12 - 14, 2018

Judges taking "Attachment and Psychopathology".

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Topic: (b) court work

We invited all the judges from the Court for Minors in Milano to a 3-day introduction to DMM theory and practice. About 15 of them participated in the three days of lessons and discussions. They took the test of 72 multiple choice questions at the end of the course as the professionals from other disciplines did. Informal discussion in the breaks revealed: 1) the judges' need for principles to decide on family matters in the best interest of children; 2) their lack of ways to evaluate the recommendations of experts, which are too often formulated in non-transparent ways. We recommended the judges request more clarity from the attachment experts, both in terms of their evaluations and recommendations and in terms of transparency about the process used to formulate those.

How we used the DMM

The DMM was used to formulate principles (for example: attachment relationships are not interchangeable) and to show how to implement developmentally appropriate assessments.

What can be contributed to the DMM

An increased awareness of the need for disseminating information about self-protective strategies and how they can clarify family functioning. This dissemination needs to use language and communication strategies that can talk to law personnel, administrators and policy makers.