



*Building an evidence base for victim services*

## Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict

### Author(s) of Instrument:

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### Key References: Publications related to this instrument

Bickham, N. L. & Fiese, B. H. (1997). Extension of the children's perceptions of interparental conflict scale for use with late adolescents. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 11, 246-250.

Grych, J. H., Seid, M., & Fincham, F.D. (1992). Assessing marital conflict from the child's perspective: The children's perception of interparental conflict scale. *Child Development*, 63, 558-572.

Moura, O., Santos, R. A., Rocha, M., & Matos, P. M. (2010). Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale (CPIC): Factor structure and invariance across adolescents and emerging adults. *International Journal of Testing*, 10, 364-382.

### Primary Use/Purpose: This section describes what this instrument was designed to measure.

This study is based on work by Grych and Fincham's (1990) cognitive-contextual model. The study is meant to examine how children interpret conflict between parents or between their parent and their parent's partner and child adjustment. The ways in which children interpret and understanding of parental conflict are related to child adjustment can be assessed.

### Background and Development: How and why this instrument was developed.

This instrument was developed to assess how children view interparental conflict. There are

multiple subscales and three superordinate scales: Conflict properties (Frequency, Intensity, Resolution), Threat (Threat, Coping Efficacy) and Self-Blame (Content, Self-Blame).

**Psychometrics (if applicable):** Any testing of this instrument.

See Grych et al. (1992) article or <https://www.midss.org/childrens-perception-interparental-conflict-scale-cpic>

**Link to Instrument:** Link to the instrument if available.

<http://www.fincham.info/measures/cpic-info.pdf>

**Submitted by:** Frank Fincham submitted this instrument to the CVR Instruments Collection and certified permission to publicly share this instrument.

## Family Disagreements

I live with \_\_\_\_\_ both my mom and my dad  
\_\_\_\_\_ one of my parents and a stepmom or stepdad  
\_\_\_\_\_ just my mom or my dad  
\_\_\_\_\_ another relative (e.g., grandmother, aunt)

In every family there are times when the parents don't get along. Below are some things that kids sometimes think or feel when their parents have arguments or disagreements. We would like you to write what you think or feel when your parents argue by answering each of the sentences below.

If your parents are not living together, answer these questions in regard to the parent and stepparent (or your parent's boyfriend/girlfriend) that you spend the most time with. If your parents are not living together and neither one is living with a new partner, think about times when your parents are together and don't get along when you answer the questions.

T = TRUE

ST = SORT OF OR SOMETIMES TRUE

F = FALSE

1. T ST F I never see my parents arguing or disagreeing
2. T ST F When my parents have an argument they usually work it out
3. T ST F My parents often get into arguments about things I do at school
4. T ST F When my parents argue I end up getting involved somehow
5. T ST F My parents get really mad when they argue
6. T ST F When my parents argue I can do something to make myself feel better
7. T ST F I get scared when my parents argue
8. T ST F I feel caught in the middle when my parents argue
9. T ST F I'm not to blame when my parents have arguments
10. T ST F They may not think I know it, but my parents argue or disagree a lot
11. T ST F Even after my parents stop arguing they stay mad at each other
12. T ST F When my parents argue I try to do something to stop them
13. T ST F When my parents have a disagreement they discuss it quietly
14. T ST F I don't know what to do when my parents have arguments
15. T ST F My parents are often mean to each other even when I'm around
16. T ST F When my parents argue I worry about what will happen to me
17. T ST F I don't feel like I have to take sides when my parents have a disagreement
18. T ST F It's usually my fault when my parents argue
19. T ST F I often see or hear my parents arguing
20. T ST F When my parents disagree about something, they usually come up with a solution
21. T ST F My parents' arguments are usually about me
22. T ST F When my parents have an argument they say mean things to each other
23. T ST F When my parents argue or disagree I can usually help make things better
24. T ST F When my parents argue I'm afraid that something bad will happen.
25. T ST F My mom wants me to be on her side when she and my dad argue

T = TRUE

ST = Sort of True

F= FALSE

26. T ST F Even if they don't say it, I know I'm to blame when my parents argue
27. T ST F My parents hardly ever argue
28. T ST F When my parents argue they usually make up right away
29. T ST F My parents usually argue or disagree because of things that I do
30. T ST F I don't get involved when my parents argue
31. T ST F When my parents have an argument they yell at each other
32. T ST F When my parents argue there's nothing I can do to stop them
33. T ST F When my parents argue I worry that one of them will get hurt
34. T ST F I feel like I have to take sides when my parents have a disagreement
35. T ST F My parents often nag and complain about each other around the house
36. T ST F My parents hardly ever yell when they have a disagreement
37. T ST F My parents often get into arguments when I do something wrong
38. T ST F My parents have broken or thrown things during an argument
39. T ST F After my parents stop arguing, they are friendly towards each other
40. T ST F When my parents argue I'm afraid that they will yell at me too
41. T ST F My parents blame me when they have arguments
42. T ST F My dad wants me to be on his side when he and my mom argue
43. T ST F My parents have pushed or shoved each other during an argument
44. T ST F When my parents argue or disagree there's nothing I can do to make myself feel better
45. T ST F When my parents argue I worry that they might get divorced
46. T ST F My parents still act mean after they have had an argument
47. T ST F Usually it's not my fault when my parents have arguments
48. T ST F When my parents argue they don't listen to anything I say

## Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale (CPIC)

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Scoring Instructions Items are scored 0, 1, or 2 and summed to create nine subscales (see variables listed above). Several items are reverse keyed. The subscales also can be combined into 3 scales: Conflict Properties (Frequency, Intensity, Resolution), Threat (Threat, Coping Efficacy) and Self-Blame (Content, Self-Blame). Because of their superior psychometric properties, it is recommended that the 3 superordinate scales be used. See attached sheet for more detailed instructions.

Populations Measured. The published psychometric properties of the measure are based on use with predominantly with white, middle class American children from the ages of 9-12. However, the measure also has been used with older and younger children and is currently being used outside of the United States as well.

Reliability and Validity. Internal consistency (coefficient alpha) has been evaluated at both the scale and subscale level in two samples, and test-retest reliability has been evaluated for the 3 superordinate scales. These data are listed below. Evidence for the validity of the scale is found in significant correlations with parental reports of marital conflict and significant associations with children's reports of their reactions to specific episodes of conflict.

For more detailed information, see

[Grych, J.H., Seid, M., & Fincham, F.D. \(1992\). Assessing marital conflict from the child's perspective: The Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale. \*Child Development\*, 63, 558-572.](#)

For psychometric data on the CPIC in late adolescents and emerging adults, see

[Bickham N.L., Fiese, B.H. \(1997\). Extension of the children's perceptions of interparental conflict scale for use with late adolescents. \*Journal of Family Psychology\*, 11, 246-250.](#)

[Moura, O., Santos, R. A., Rocha, M., & Matos, P. M. \(2010\). Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale \(CPIC\): Factor structure and invariance across adolescents and emerging adults. \*International Journal of Testing\*, 10, 364-382.](#)

<u>Scale</u>	<u>Coefficient Alpha</u>	<u>Test-Retest</u>
	Sample 1/Sample 2	
Conflict Properties	.90/.89	.70
Threat	.83/.83	.68
Self-Blame	.78/.84	.76
Intensity	.82/.80	
Frequency	.70/.68	
Resolution	.83/.82	
Threat	.82/.83	

Coping Efficacy	.69/.65
Self-Blame	.61/.69
Content	.74/.82
*Triangulation	.71/.62

\*The triangulation scale has been expanded since these measures of reliability were obtained. The most up-to-date version is included below.

## SUBSCALES

### Frequency

- 1.\* I never see my parents arguing or disagreeing
- 10. They may not think I know it, but my parents argue or disagree a lot
- 15. My parents are often mean to each other even when I'm around
- 19. I often see my parents arguing
- 27\*. My parents hardly ever argue
- 35. My parents often nag and complain about each other around the house

### Intensity

- 5. My parents get really mad when they argue
- 13\*. When my parents have a disagreement they discuss it quietly
- 22. When my parents have an argument they say mean things to each other
- 31. When my parents have an argument they yell at each other
- 36\*. My parents hardly ever yell when they have a disagreement
- 38. My parents have broken or thrown things during an argument
- 43. My parents have pushed or shoved each other during an argument

### Resolution

- 2\*. When my parents have an argument they usually work it out
- 11. Even after my parents stop arguing they stay mad at each other
- 20\*. When my parents disagree about something, they usually come up with a solution
- 28\*. When my parents argue they usually make up right away
- 39\*. After my parents stop arguing, they are friendly towards each other
- 46. My parents still act mean after they have had an argument

### Content

- 3. My parents often get into arguments about things I do at school
- 21. My parents' arguments are usually about me
- 29. My parents usually argue or disagree because of things that I do
- 37. My parents often get into arguments when I do something wrong

### Perceived threat

- 7. I get scared when my parents argue

- 16. When my parents argue I worry about what will happen to me.
- 24. When my parents argue I'm afraid that something bad will happen.
- 33. When my parents argue I worry that one of them will get hurt
- 40. When my parents argue I'm afraid that they will yell at me too
- 45. When my parents argue I worry that they might get divorced

#### Coping efficacy

- 6\*. When my parents argue I can do something to make myself feel better
- 14. I don't know what to do when my parents have arguments
- 23\*. When my parents argue or disagree I can usually help make things better
- 32. When my parents argue there's nothing I can do to stop them
- 44. When my parents argue or disagree there's nothing I can do to make myself feel better
- 48. When my parents argue they don't listen to anything I say

#### Self-blame

- 9\*. I'm not to blame when my parents have arguments
- 18. It's usually my fault when my parents argue
- 26. Even if they don't say it, I know I'm to blame when my parents argue
- 41. My parents blame me when they have arguments
- 47\*. Usually it's not my fault when my parents have arguments

#### Triangulation

- 4. When my parents argue I end up getting involved somehow
- 8. I feel caught in the middle when my parents argue
- 12. When my parents argue I try to do something to stop them
- 17\*. I don't feel like I have to take sides when my parents have a disagreement
- 25. My mom wants me to be on her side when she and my dad argue
- 30\*. I don't get involved when my parents argue
- 34. I feel like I have to take sides when my parents have a disagreement
- 42. My dad wants me to be on his side when he and my mom argue

Coefficient alpha = .72 (Grych, Raynor, & Fosco, 2004)

#### Scoring

-Items not marked with an asterisk are scored as follows:

False = 0  
Sort of True = 1  
True = 2

-Items marked with an asterisk are reverse keyed and are scored:

False = 2  
Sort of True = 1  
True = 0