



Professional Use & Certification Guidelines

Version 1.0 – May 2025

Structured Analysis of Parental Enmeshment (SAPE)

1. Purpose of this Document

This document outlines how the SAPE method can be used responsibly by professionals across law, psychology, child protection, and social work. It provides usage boundaries, certification pathways, and implementation guidance for integration into reports, custody evaluations, and social service assessments.

2. Intended Professional Users

SAPE may be used by:

- Family Law Attorneys – to structure evidence of emotional influence, loyalty conflicts, or relational pressure
- Social Workers & Caseworkers – to document patterns in caregiver-child dynamics
- Court-Appointed Experts – to supplement psychological or relational assessments
- Mediators or Guardians ad Litem – to highlight child voice or emotional role conflicts
- Accredited SAPE Users – professionals trained to apply the method under recognized standards

3. Core Principles of Professional Use

1. Child-Centeredness

All interpretations must prioritize the child's psychological safety, developmental autonomy, and freedom from coercive loyalty binds.

2. Structured Neutrality

SAPE is not a tool to “take sides” but to make subtle patterns visible for evaluation by appropriate authorities.

3. Non-Diagnostic Framing

SAPE users must clearly indicate that the method does not deliver clinical or psychiatric diagnoses, and does not replace expert evaluations when such are required.

4. Evidence Transparency

Each SAPE report must include:

- A clear case ID or reference
- Type of material analyzed (e.g., image, transcript, letter)
- Structured SAPE grading with legend
- Risk classification and suggested implications

4. Use in Legal, Social, and Clinical Contexts

Context	Example Use of SAPE	Guidelines
Court Proceedings	As an exhibit to clarify emotional manipulation or pattern of influence	Must include disclaimer and grading table
Social Service Evaluations	As a reference structure to interpret observed behaviors or parental narratives	Should be used alongside family interviews and field documentation
Psychological Evaluations	To illustrate relational patterns using submitted materials (e.g. child's drawing or transcript)	Must not replace psychological testing
Custody Mediation	To help mediators see how children may be affected by subtle dynamics	Use for education and orientation, not blame attribution

5. Certification Levels

5.1 Non-Certified Use

- Open to parents, lawyers, social workers
- May use the tool and reference public SAPE resources
- Reports include “Non-Certified Use” footer
- Cannot present SAPE as an expert method without review

5.2 Certified Practitioner (Tier 1)

- Completion of SAPE Practitioner Module
- Can generate certified SAPE reports for internal use (e.g., within a family law practice or agency)
- May refer to SAPE in legal argumentation or family assessments
- Reports marked “Certified SAPE Practitioner”

5.3 Expert Reviewer (Tier 2)

- Certified psychologist, legal expert, or social science researcher
- Authorized to review and co-sign SAPE reports for official use
- May appear as expert witness when SAPE evidence is used
- May issue a “SAPE Expert Review Stamp” on approved reports

6. Review & Oversight (Optional Framework)

- An external SAPE Review Panel (under development) may provide:
- Peer review of SAPE applications in complex or contested cases
- Feedback to courts and social services on report quality
- Ethical review of borderline cases or disputed interpretations

7. Ethical Use Obligations

All professional users agree to:

- Avoid using SAPE as a strategic weapon
- Acknowledge the method's interpretive (not conclusive) nature
- Never present SAPE as a clinical assessment unless explicitly combined with such

8. Integration with Case Files

Professionals may embed SAPE outputs into broader casework or legal documentation using:

- PDF reports with SAPE Grading Table and Method Disclaimer
- Visual exhibits of evidence (e.g. under "Pattern Mapping")
- Written narratives including SAPE findings as supplementary information

9. Requesting Certification

To become a SAPE-certified user, submit an expression of interest to:

 info@attingen.com

Please include your professional background, jurisdiction, and intended use case.

10. Document Status

This document is part of the official SAPE framework and may be appended to legal briefs, social service manuals, or training handbooks. It is not binding law but offers a professional standard of care for the use of SAPE materials in sensitive family matters.