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Dilemmas in child protection

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Stellingen

behorend bij het proefschrift:

Dilemmas in child protection

Methods and decision-maker factors influencing decision-making in child maltreatment cases

Cora Bartelink

Groningen, 1 februari 2018

1. Decision-making in cases of (suspected) child maltreatment is a well-studied subject. However, few researchers accept the challenge to study how decision-making can be optimized with methods and instruments. (this dissertation)
2. Structured decision-making broadens practitioners' views of situations in which children (possibly) are exposed to child maltreatment. (this dissertation)
3. Structured decision-making influences, to a limited extent, the agreement among practitioners about the assessment of the situation in cases of (suspected) child maltreatment. (this dissertation)
4. Despite the relatively limited reliability and validity of safety and risk assessments made with risk assessment instruments, it is advised to continue using these instruments. (this dissertation)
5. When practitioners in child welfare and child protection are not aware of the limited reliability and validity of risk assessment instruments, there is a likelihood they will overestimate the value of the safety and risk assessments made. (this dissertation)
6. Differences among practitioners in their attitudes and reasoning can be an entry point for the improvement of decision-making in cases of (suspected) child maltreatment: these differences should not remain implicit, but should be made more explicit and utilized. (this dissertation)
7. Child welfare and child protection can use the medical sector as a model, in which the support of decision-making with software is more common, though software is explicitly not a replacement of professional expertise.
8. It seems that the necessary thing to do is not to fear mistakes, to plunge in, to do the best that one can, hoping to learn enough from blunders to correct them eventually (Abraham H. Maslow, *Motivation and Personality*, 1954, p. 125).