



Columbine Counseling Center

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PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Bill J. Fyfe, Ed.D., psychologist, provides a case-specific psychological and interpersonal evaluation to assist parents, attorneys, and judges in **resolving parenting time and parental decision-making disputes**. The goals in a parental responsibility evaluation (PRE) are: to provide a set of recommendations that describe a constructive situation for maximizing each child's development, to preserve the opportunity for future relating between each child and parent, and to identify the strengths of each parent related to the recommended parenting plan.

Attorney Interview

The PRE evaluation includes a telephone consultation with each attorney representing that parent or guardian. We will discuss the family situation and the issues facing the family. If there is a Child's Legal Representative involved, they are also consulted early in the evaluation process. The focus is on how each attorney views the family situation and what salient issues, in their view, need to be assessed. Pertinent legal documents or written materials are forwarded to the evaluator for review. Further communication with attorneys beyond the initial contact will be kept to a minimum and disclosed to all parties.

History Taking

Interviews and forms are used to gain information and insight specific to the family and their history. Problems which may have arisen since the separation are also discussed. Each parent is asked to present his or her view of what would work best for each child. In addition, each parent is asked to provide information concerning his or her upbringing, so the evaluator can gain a better understanding of how he or she were parented and how this experience impacts their parenting.

Child Assessment and Interview

The assessment of each child begins after the initial adult interviews. Each parent brings the child to the office. The assessment process moves gradually. Interaction through play, interview, drawings, sandtray and various children's games are used to ascertain each child's current level of functioning, their overall sense of family and comfort with caregivers. Based on age and development, each child is asked about the home and post separation environment.

Parent and Significant Other Interview and Assessment

Each parent is interviewed several times in order to develop a parent behavior and current parental capacity profile. Additional information is gathered from sources such as direct observation during the parent/child interactionals (PCI see ahead), psychosocial history and professional and personal reference data.

Parental Responsibility Evaluation Procedures

Psychological and Drug/Alcohol Testing

Traditional personality assessment instruments will be used along with a detailed psychosocial history and clinical interview data to form the basis of a psychological profile on each parent or guardian. Standard drug/alcohol assessment tests will be used, if this is an arena which needs to be specifically investigated. The parties need to be in agreement concerning drug/alcohol assessment and inform the evaluator prior to the commencement of the evaluation. Adjustments for fees related to drug/alcohol assessment are specified on the Contract for Service attached to this document.

Parent Child Interactionals (PCI)

An important part of the evaluation process is the observation of parents and children in a joint session. Typically there are two interactive sessions with each child and parent. The interactive sessions may include a variety of formats, from unstructured playtime to a task oriented, structured activity.

Reference Reports

Finally, information about family functioning is obtained from references including neighbors, friends, and medical, educational, daycare and mental health professionals familiar with the family. This information is integrated with the above sources to form the basis for an opinion.

Evaluation Summary and Recommendations

All information from interviews, observations, reference reports, reviewed written materials and assessment data is reviewed to identify each child's present and future needs, and the family system's capacity to respond to those needs at different developmental points in time. Recommendations regarding parenting time and decision-making designations are made from an in depth analysis of this data.

Each parent is provided with an interpretive session to discuss the findings and recommendations arrived at in the evaluation. During that hour consideration of each child's developmental position and future needs will be discussed. Procedures for informing children of the evaluator's recommendations are also discussed.

The written report is released to the courts and each attorney after the parents have been given face to face feedback. The report is structured in a way that facilitates efficient comprehension of the salient issues and recommended parenting plan.

NOTE: Emergency or after hour services are not offered under this contract. No exceptions.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY EVALUATION PROCEDURES CONTRACT FOR SERVICE

I have reviewed the fee schedule below and understand that the estimated cost of the PRE service is \$_____. I also understand that a file establishment fee of \$450.00 plus hours billed is nonrefundable once the evaluation commences.

I have read the **Parental Responsibility Evaluation Procedures, To Clients, HIPPA Notice of Privacy Practices, Center Policy on the Release of Psychological Test Data, and Center Policy for Court Appearance**. I understand that court testimony entails an additional cost to the party requesting the testimony. I agree to abide by these policies and procedures.

I agree to pay my portion of the estimated cost, which is \$_____ at the start of the evaluation. I agree to pay my portion of the balance due, which is estimated to be \$_____ at the end of the evaluation by certified funds.

10% Cash discount _____ Full fee within first week of evaluation. NO EXCEPTIONS

Traditional Payment Plan _____ One half of the fee due the first week the evaluation begins. Balance due prior to the release of the report in certified funds. (Credit cards funds must be cleared by our billing company prior to report release)

Client Signature: _____

Date: _____

FEE SCHEDULE FOR PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY EVALUATIONS* (The fees below do not include court time and time outside the Denver metropolitan areas)

Number of Involved Adults	2 or 3	Up to 4	4 or more
Number of Involved Children	1 or 2	3 or 4	More than 4
Full Fee	\$8,500	\$10,000	\$12,000

Drug/Alcohol Assessment Fees = \$400.00 additional per adult

**At times, the initial fee estimate for an evaluation is modified. For example, a significant relationship between a child and an extended family member may need to be evaluated, or several years of litigation or medical care may require extensive review of documents. We immediately inform the party or parties responsible for payment of additional costs and our reasons for such costs.*