



Columbine Counseling Center

CENTER POLICY AS REGARDS RELEASE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST DATA

It is clear from statute that parties to a Child and Family Investigation (CFI) or a Parental Responsibility Evaluation (PRE) have a right to request the underlying file data. This becomes a problem for psychologists in regards to psychological test data. The American Psychological Association (APA) "Ethical Guidelines for Psychologists" (Rev. 2003) states that psychologists do not promote the use of psychological assessment techniques by unqualified persons. Psychologists conducting court related evaluations are therefore faced with a dilemma when they receive a request for underlying data collected during a CFI or PRE. On the one hand, the statute gives clients the right to the data. Yet psychologists are under ethical constraints to protect clients from harm or misuse of test data.

Dr. Fyfe has determined that the best resolution of this dilemma is as follows: Upon receipt of request for test data Dr. Fyfe will determine if harm is likely to arise from the release of such data. In the absence of such a determination, Dr. Fyfe will release the test data. Specifying another qualified person is the most expeditious means of obtaining evaluation test data under most circumstances and can easily be accomplished by having each party provide a release of information to the designated qualified person. If, however, the parties are insistent on obtaining psychological test data once harm has been determined, Dr. Fyfe requests that the party obtain a court order to release the protected materials. Such a court order would supersede professional ethical standards and allow Dr. Fyfe to respond without being in violation of those standards.

In sum, Dr. Fyfe respects the clients' right to understand and review the materials on which he bases investigation or evaluation reports. The above policy is not intended to obstruct those rights. Since these questions often arise, however, Dr. Fyfe has decided that it would be most helpful if all parties are notified of this policy at the outset of any assessment process.

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