



W E L L N E S S

### **Informed Consent for Forensic Services**

Forensic services, including evaluations and treatment, are somewhat different than other psychological services. The American Psychological Association (APA) Ethics Code 3.10(c) specifies that psychologists must obtain informed consent and “when psychological services are court ordered or otherwise mandated, psychologists inform the individual of the nature of the anticipated services, including whether the services are court ordered or mandated and any limits of confidentiality, before proceeding.”

The goal of an attorney-referred or court-ordered evaluation is to provide information about how you are functioning psychologically and what risks might be present. This assists your attorney and/or the court with how to proceed with your case. If your attorney has requested this evaluation, he/she will receive a copy of the report and will control how it is to be used and who has access to it. Normally, the results of an attorney referred evaluation are protected by the attorney-client privilege. Exceptions to this, as noted below, include suspected child abuse, danger to self, and danger to others. If the court has requested an evaluation, the court will receive a copy of the report.

The person or entity requesting the evaluation is the client and he/she/entity has complete authority over the results, including whether or not any information will be released to you or to anyone else. The evaluator or treatment provider will not release the information unless instructed to do so by the person or entity requesting the services or unless legally required to do so.

A typical forensic evaluation includes three parts: The clinical interview, psychological and risk assessments, and a review of documentation. The clinical interview will include a discussion of historical and current factors, including but not limited to family history, social and relationship history, educational and employment history, mental health history and current psychological functioning, substance use history, sexual history, and criminal history. Psychological assessment may include testing of intelligence, achievement, aptitude, neuropsychological, personality, attitudes, specific symptoms, and risk. A review of documentation might include court records, depositions, police records, victim statements, discovery, transcripts, medical records, etc.

Please read each item carefully. Your signature below indicates that you understand each item:

- I understand that my psychological status is being evaluated in connection with my legal case.
- I understand that this release is for the purpose of facilitating forensic consultation and/or evaluation and that there is no traditional therapist-patient privilege or confidentiality.
- I understand that state laws and mandatory reporting requirements may require the evaluator to report to the appropriate agencies any situations of suspected child or elder abuse and potential harm to oneself or to another.
- I understand that that information I provide may be detrimental and/or damaging to me or to my legal position. I assume all responsibility for the information I provide and how that information is used and/or interpreted.
- I understand that a formal report, including all information obtained from the interview and assessment results, will be written and submitted to the referring party (e.g. attorney, court).
- I understand that even if I interrupt or discontinue with the evaluation, a report with recommendations may still be submitted and that the evaluator may still be called upon to testify in my case.
- I understand that unless the evaluation is funded by the court, the report will not be released until the professional fee is paid.

Participation in this evaluation and/or treatment is voluntary. You have the right to stop the evaluation or treatment at any time. There may be legal consequences if you do not fully participate; therefore, it is in your best interest to consult with your attorney or referring party prior to declining services.

**I have read and fully understand the above:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_