

UA Psychology Clinic
Child Psychological Evaluation Agreement

Prior to beginning the evaluation, it is important for you to understand our approach to child assessment and agree to some procedures about your child's evaluation. The information herein is in addition to the information contained in the *Informed Consent Statement*. Under HIPAA and the APA Ethics Code, we are legally and ethically responsible to provide you with informed consent. As we go forward, we will try to remind you of important issues as they arise.

Our procedures with respect to consent for psychological evaluation of minor children are based on the following general understandings:

- Typically, either parent/guardian can consent to evaluation for the minor child unless there is a legal decree that mandates otherwise or one parent has no legal rights related to the child.
- When there is joint custody, we make an effort to have contact with both parents/guardians unless compelling reasons against this course of action exist.
- In joint custody situations, once one parent has given written consent for assessment, the other parent's assent or consent is obtained, if possible.

One obstacle to a successful child psychological evaluation involves one parent not wanting the other parent to be involved in the process. Our strong preference is to be able to talk with each parent about the child so as to get the most comprehensive information (unless there is a compelling reason which is not in the child's best interest or one parent's rights have been limited or terminated by the court). Another obstacle to a productive evaluation is disagreement among parents regarding the nature of the evaluation and the use of its results. If such disagreements occur, we will strive to listen carefully so that we can understand your perspectives and fully explain our perspective. We can resolve such disagreements or we can agree to disagree, so long as this facilitates your child's evaluation.

Although our responsibility to your child may require our involvement in conflicts between the two of you, we need your agreement that our involvement will be strictly limited to that which will benefit your child. This means, among other things, that you will treat anything that is said in session with us as confidential. Neither of you will attempt to gain advantage in any legal proceeding between the two of you from our involvement with your children. In particular, we need your agreement that in any such proceedings, neither of you will ask us to testify in court, whether in person, or by affidavit. You also agree to instruct your attorneys not to subpoena us or to refer in any court filing to anything we have said or done.

Note that such agreement may not prevent a judge from requiring our testimony, even though we will work to prevent such an event. If we are required to testify, we are ethically bound not to give our opinion about either parent's custody or visitation suitability. If the court appoints a custody evaluator, guardian ad litem, or parenting coordinator, we will provide information as needed (if appropriate releases are signed or a court order is

provided), but we will not make any recommendations about the final decision. Furthermore, if we are required to appear in court as a witness, the party responsible for our participation agrees to reimburse us at the rate of \$125 per hour for time spent traveling, preparing reports, testifying, being in attendance, and any other case- related-costs.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Witness/Therapist Signature

Date