

Professional Counseling Associates

PO Drawer 15968, Little Rock, AR 72231

501-221-1843

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About Your Request for Court-Ordered Services

If a court has ordered that you should get mental health evaluation or treatment, here is some information about services that PCA can and cannot offer you. **This also applies if a lawyer, judge, probation officer, etc.**, has urged or suggested that you should get mental health services to use in a court case in any way. **If you are a defendant in a criminal case**, there is a special process that the court must use to get a “forensic” evaluation done, which is assigned to a specific professional by a state office.

PCA does NOT offer “second opinions.” That is, if another evaluator is already reporting to the court on this question, we will not do an evaluation to provide a competing opinion. **We do NOT offer evaluations for use in child custody disputes.** Resources for these evaluations are listed below. If we are called to court because we have been counseling a child or a parent, we will *not* make recommendations about which person should have custody of a child.

We must have a copy of the court order before we can decide whether to schedule an appointment. If no formal order is going to be issued, we must have direct information from an officer of the court (such as the probation officer, court clerk, etc.) explaining exactly what is needed. Some people are ordered for services we cannot provide, and some orders have conditions that we would not be able to meet.

Costs

We do not receive any state funds for these services and do not have a contract to provide them. Therefore **we cannot provide any discounts, and payment is required before the tests can be administered or before a counseling session takes place. Our fee is \$120.00 per hour.** The secretary can quote you the fee for the services or tests you are requesting. You can pay in cash or with a credit card.

Testing or counseling for court use is **not** “medically necessary,” so it is not paid for by Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance. It is very rare for other insurance to pay, and if you think your insurance may pay, we still need pre-payment.

If You Need Psychological Testing:

An appointment for administering tests usually takes two hours, and can take longer for some types of tests. This must be scheduled and cannot be done on a walk-in basis. **An evaluation report will be ready** approximately 14 days from the date the testing was done. **If you need a certified evaluation report or notarized letter for court**, that is included in the basic price of the evaluation.

Other Reports, Testimony, and Depositions:

One report letter will be sent to the court without charge. If you need our staff to give a deposition or testify or prepare additional reports or letters, there will be an additional charge for the expert testimony, and we require payment in advance. The cost depends on how much time is needed, at a rate of \$120.00 per hour.

Other Options for Court Evaluations:

If you need a report more quickly, or prefer to use another resource, there are many professionals who offer psychological evaluation services. Some evaluations for court, custody cases, and schools are done by:

Nicholas Paal, PhD 664-9050

Glenn Lowitz, PhD, 225-8382

If you have any questions, please call (501) 221-1843 and ask to speak with a manager.

NOTE about special types of Court Orders -- This page does not apply to the following people:

Children in DCFS custody; clients of PROMOTE or UFS; anyone committed for involuntary mental health treatment; or anyone on Conditional Release after acquittal under Act 911.