

INFORMED CONSENT FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING AND EVALUATION

If we agree to engage in an assessment process, the decision to use formal psychological tests will be discussed with you prior to the initiation of testing. The discussion will include the nature of the tests to be employed, the reasons for testing, and the mechanism by which test results will be presented. If you have a managed care plan, I will usually be required to request an authorization or precertification from your managed care company before I can provide any testing. When requesting an authorization, I will present the information from the initial consultation in order for the managed care company to determine whether or not the need for testing meets the managed care company's criteria for "clinical necessity." If the managed care company does not approve the amount of testing that I believe is appropriate to address your questions, you have the options of declining the evaluation or self-paying for your testing.

Psychological testing is more valid and reliable when the client is willing and motivated to participate, when the client does not have prior knowledge of expected answers, and when the client does not receive outside help in determining the "right" answer. For these reasons, the testing will be done under the direct supervision of a psychologist, and the psychological tests themselves will not be distributed to clients. In other words, psychological tests cannot be taken out of my office. On occasion, we may need to schedule a several-hour block of time in order to accomplish a single "testing" session. I also spend considerable time in test scoring, data interpretation, and report writing after you have completed a particular test. Of course, I charge for my time spent scoring tests and writing reports (usually a minimum of two [2] to three [3] hours).

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK SESSION

The results of psychological testing and assessment will be discussed with you and with any others whom you have delegated and for whom you have signed an authorization for the release of confidential information. If authorized by your managed care company, I typically schedule an assessment feedback session of forty-five (45) minutes in order to review the results of psychological testing. The feedback session is billed separately from the psychological testing charges.

POSSIBLE BENEFITS AND RISKS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

Psychological testing has both benefits and limitations. I have found that most of my patients describe our work together as useful, informative, and beneficial. Potential benefits may include gaining an increased understanding of yourself. Potential risks or limitations may include limited predictive validity of psychological assessment procedures, possible disagreement with the opinions offered, and possible emotional distress. It is normal for a person to feel nervous about being "tested" or evaluated. However, I encourage you to tell me if you experience any significant discomfort arising from your participation in psychological testing. I believe that it is important for you to assert yourself in this regard, and my approach is to discuss these feelings with you to achieve a positive resolution.

Client's Signature

Date

Practitioner's Signature

Date