

Mental Health Evaluation Fact Sheet

Please read this **before** requesting psychological or mental health evaluations.

Focus of Evaluation

- For people on Medicaid or who have no insurance, there are very few resources available, and the wait list is usually several months. Local, county, and federally-funded community clinics are not willing to do psychiatric evaluations or psychological testing for the courts because of liability.
- The costs for psychological evaluations can cost as much as \$2,000.00 for a full battery of tests. Because of this, please only check the type of testing that is necessary.
- If you request the evaluation be for treatment in addition to any other sections in the Purpose of Evaluation section of the form, insurance is more likely to cover the evaluation.
- Please consider the waiting list time to see a psychiatrist. There is a shortage of psychiatrists in our region. Even with private insurance, it can take two months or longer to see a psychiatrist. People on Medicaid or who are uninsured must rely on clinics which will not perform court-ordered evaluations or testing. Additionally, it is not uncommon to wait four to six months or longer to see a clinic psychiatrist to receive a diagnosis and be prescribed medication.
- If you are looking strictly for a diagnosis, there are several professional disciplines that can diagnose. They are Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, PhD Psychologists and PsyD Psychologists, and Psychiatrists (MD or DO)
- Please give a copy of your completed form to the person who is required to get an evaluation. Instruct the person to take this form to the evaluator.
- Please understand that 1 out of 5 people in the United States will have a diagnosable mental illness in their lifetime. Many people will function well with medication, therapy or both. Some individuals might need additional support (parenting classes, anger management classes, support groups, representative payee services, case management, etc.) to increase their ability to function well.
- Please take advantage of the "Notes" section of the form to convey circumstances or your concerns (examples: person seems confused, person has been in your court four times, request recommendations for treatment).

Resources for Evaluations

- Mental Health America - 314-773-1399 www.mha-em.org. Provides information about a wide range of mental health services Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Behavioral Health Response - 314-469-6644. Provides suggestions for mental health resources and is a 24-hour call center for anyone experiencing a mental health crisis of any kind.
- Center for Behavioral Health (UM-St. Louis) will do parent evaluations that are referred by a DJO in the City Court only. Paid for by a grant.

Mental Health Evaluation Form

Evaluation Requested by:

Judge Lawyer GAL Probation & Parole Caseworker

Judge Name			County/Division/Court	
Cause #	Date			Evaluation Due
Notes:				

Purpose of Evaluation (check all that apply)

1 Ability to parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Custody	<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Potential for Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Substance Use/Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Organic Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Severe Mental Illness	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Emotional Disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Treatment Recommendations	<input type="checkbox"/>	9 Neuropsychological Disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>

Evaluator Expected to Testify

Yes No To be determined

Focus of Evaluation/Testing

Each number listed below corresponds to a specific "Purpose of Evaluation" and reflects the type of testing most commonly used for that purpose. Your "Notes", indicated "Purpose of Evaluation", and choice below will help the evaluator determine the most appropriate method.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cognitive 1, 4, 5	IQ and achievement testing to determine the strengths and weaknesses of a person's thinking. General assessment, domains include: general awareness, attention, verbal comprehension, visual spatial ability, computation, abstract thought, impulsivity, problem solving, social comprehension, and judgment. Rule out gross learning disabilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emotional 3, 8, 4, 6	Assess emotional functioning and assess for depression, anxiety, deficits in identity formation, obsessive/compulsive disorders, and sleep disorders. Assess personality functioning. Obtain data regarding developmental and emotional age. Obtain data regarding family dynamics.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Behavioral 1, 2, 6, 7, 8	Evaluate substance abuse. Evaluate for trauma and abuse. Evaluate for risk of self-harm, aggression, and treatment compliance or flight. Detect malingering, deceit, and exaggeration. Screen for behaviors that are high-risk, illegal, or violate the rights of others or major social values, including substance abuse. Rule out thought disorders and screen for organic impairment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executive Functioning 1, 4, 7	Executive functioning assessment evaluates: self-regulation, problem solving, planning, organization, inhibition, meta-cognition (self-awareness), working memory, and accountability.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neuropsychological 5, 9	Evaluates neurodevelopmental conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism, concussion, and other learning disorders. Domains include: attention, memory, language, visual-spatial functioning, and executive functioning.