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Informed Consent to General Psychological Evaluation

This document contains important information of our standard psychological evaluations, which differ from forensic evaluations. If this evaluation is intended for use in some type of a legal proceeding, please discuss it with your clinician at the initial session and you will be directed to another set of forms.

Goal of Evaluation

The goal of a psychological evaluation (also called assessment) is to assess psychological and/or cognitive functioning. It may include, but not limited to, measures of attention, memory, language, problem solving, personality, emotions, health factors, and cognitive functioning.

Approach to Evaluation

The evaluation itself consists of three separate parts:

1. the initial interview, which usually takes 40 to 45 minutes;
2. administration of psychological testing, which, in general, takes between 4 and 8 units (1 unit=40 minutes), depending on the purpose of the evaluation; it can be broken down into multiple testing sessions. These are estimates of the time it may take to complete the process and may vary, either longer or shorter in duration, depending on how much information you have to share and the complexity of the issues, and
3. a follow-up/test-result session, usually takes place 3 weeks after the last testing session. The test results session is an opportunity for the clinician to explain the test results to the clients, and answer any questions clients might have.

Some of the tests are administered directly by a clinician while other tests are completed by the client, or someone who knows the client well without a clinician being present. The client may be asked to return for additional tests or an additional interview session, if it is decided by the evaluator to be beneficial for the evaluation.

In order for the results of these tests to be a fair presentation of abilities and functioning, you must answer honestly and put forth your best effort on all tasks. Many of the tests administered are designed to detect symptom exaggeration and/or poor effort. Lack of effort or failure to be honest may invalidate test results.

Confidentiality

Both law and mental health care standards require that we keep appropriate treatment

records. All progress notes, testing results, and testing reports will become part of your confidential clinical record. If you would like your record to be released to other professionals, such as your primary care physician, appropriate release form needs to be signed before the release of your record. I will not release your file contents to anyone else you or your legal guardian sign a release form permitting me to do so with the following exceptions:

1. If there is suspected child abuse, elder abuse, or dependent adult abuse.
2. When threat to injure or kill oneself is communicated to the therapist.
3. If you are required to sign a release of confidential information by your medical insurance.
4. If you are required to sign a release for psychotherapy records if you are involved in litigation or other matters with private or public agencies. Think carefully and consult with an attorney before you sign away your rights. We can discuss some foreseeable possibilities together.
5. Clients being seen in couple, family, and group work are obligated legally to respect the confidentiality of others. The therapist will exercise discretion (but cannot promise absolute confidentiality) when disclosing private information to other participants in your treatment process. Secrets cannot be kept by the therapist from others involved in your treatment process. Informed Consent for Dynamic Psychotherapy, p. 6
6. I may at times speak with professional colleagues about our work without asking permission, but your identity will be disguised.
7. My personal secretary and office manager have access to locked records but are legally charged with confidentiality.
8. Clients under 18 do not have full confidentiality from their parents.
9. It is also important to be aware of other potential limits to confidentiality that include the following: a) All records as well as notes on sessions and phone calls can be subject to court subpoena under certain extreme circumstances; b) Most records are stored in locked files but some are stored in secured electronic devices; c) Cell phones, portable phones, faxes, and e-mails are used on some occasions; d) All electronic communication compromises your confidentiality.

Fees:

The face-to-face administration of tests with Dr. Jiang is charged by an hourly rate, \$200/hour or hourly sliding-fee rate*.

For clients with insurance(s), tests/questionnaires completed by clients or others about clients without a clinician being present would add at least 1 extra unit (1 unit =40 minutes) to your charge. This contains the cost of the tests, and test scoring and interpretation. The charges will be reflected on the bill for the session you receive the tests. In addition, there is a 1 to 4 units report-writing charge. Depending on the length and complexity of the report, your insurance(s)

may be billed for additional units for the report writing. You will get the original report signed by the evaluator(s) at or following your test-result session. You will not be charged for the report writing if you do not wish to have a written report.

For clients qualified for a sliding fee scale, besides the face-to-face session fees, tests/questionnaires completed by clients or others about clients without a clinician being present would add \$ 200 per type of test. For example, an MMPI-2 itself will be \$200; 4 Connors take-home tests all together will be \$400. This contains the cost of the tests, and test scoring and interpretation. The charges will be reflected on the bill for the session you receive the tests. You will get the original report signed by the evaluator(s) at or following your test-result session. You will not be charged for the report writing if you do not wish to have a written report.

Test results and psychological reports will not be released until fees, including but not limited to sliding fees, co-pays and insurance deductibles, are paid in full.

In addition, it may be necessary to review other related materials such as court records, depositions, transcripts, school records, medical records, etc. If, at any time, you have a question about any aspect of the evaluation or these procedures, please feel free to ask your evaluator. Your participation in this evaluation is voluntary. The evaluator will not conduct the evaluation without your signature on this document. You also have the right to stop the evaluation at any time. The clinician(s)/evaluator(s) may be asked to write a report of the findings. We retain the right to include our professional opinions that we believe to represent our findings most accurately in your case. You are not obligated to use any report that we write.

Your signature below acknowledges that you have read, understand and agree to be bound by the content, terms, and conditions of this informed consent contract.

Client's Signature _____ Date _____

Legal Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Zhujun (Jackie) Jiang, PsyD _____ Date _____
Anger Management Specialist II

*Please consult with the billing department regarding your eligibility for the sliding fee scale. Certain tests would not qualify for the sliding fee scale.