

## **Court-Appointed Custody Evaluation Disclosure**

I am Tiffany Capps, LPC-S, NCC, and I am the mental health professional that has been appointed by the court system to conduct your child custody evaluation. I am a Nationally Certified Counselor and have been treating children, adolescents, and their families as a Licensed Professional Counselor with the LPC Board of Examiners for the state of Louisiana since 2011.

The purpose of a custody evaluation is to determine the psychological best interest of the child or children in this family. Best interest factors considered in this evaluation are listed in Civil Code article 134 and child abuse will be considered as defined by Children’s Code Article 603(2). If it is suspected that child abuse has occurred, I am required by law to report those suspicions to Office of Child and Family Services to determine if an investigation is necessary. Investigating child abuse and neglect is not within the scope of this evaluation, but if either is suspected or reported, it will be reported to the appropriate local authorities for further investigation.

During this evaluation, I will conduct clinical interviews with all caregivers and with the child or children for whom custody is being considered. Upon gathering information during the interviews it is revealed that other professionals or stakeholders in the child’s life may contribute information that is relevant to the evaluation, I may request permission from the court to interview those parties, as well.

At times, standardized and informal psychological instruments will be used for evaluation of the child’s reported symptoms. These instruments provide a non-biased look at the lived experience of the child on a day to day basis. Other informal clinical evaluation activities may be used with children and parents to gather data about relationships.

In most therapeutic situations, confidentiality is paramount to ensure trust and enhance the therapeutic process. The nature of the evaluation process limits confidentiality as the results of this evaluation must be reported to the court, attorneys, and parents involved in this case. The intended use of this information is not to establish therapeutic rapport, but to evaluate the nature of the situation in question and to determine the child’s psychological best interest.

The court order usually specifies the financial responsibilities of this evaluation. The fees are as follows:

Individual clinical interviews (per hour)	\$200
Records review (per minute)	\$2.50
Consultations with attorneys or other professionals (per minute)	\$2.50
Written evaluation	\$200 per hour
No show fee	\$200

\*Report will be released after the written evaluation fee is paid in full.

In general, I aim to complete the evaluation process within 4-6 weeks of receiving the signed judgement.

Please complete and sign the following consent forms to provide permission for me to speak with your attorney or any other professional that you believe might have information that is pertinent to this evaluation:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, consent for Tiffany Capps, LPC-S, NCC to conduct the psychological evaluation deemed necessary by the court. This means that she will interview myself, my spouse, any children for this evaluation.

In addition, I believe that the following professionals may have additional information that may be useful in this evaluation and I sign my permission for Tiffany Capps, LPC-S, NCC to contact these parties and use their information for this evaluation.

<u>Name / relationship</u>	<u>Phone number</u>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date