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#MH 16756

Informed Consent

Psychological Evaluations for Immigration Cases

This document contains important information about my professional services and business policies. Please read it carefully and ask any questions you may have. Your signature on this document indicates that you have read, understood, and agree to its provisions.

Psychological Assessment

Psychological assessment involves a comprehensive evaluation of client's cognitive, emotional, and social functioning at a particular point in time. The evaluation is conducted by gathering background information and collateral information. Methods include the use of clinical interviewing and observations, and standardized norm-referenced measurement tools. The purpose of any psychological testing is to provide normative data to help inform a clinical diagnosis. There are risks and benefits associated with psychological assessments. Typically, participation in the evaluation process presents a low risk. However, some clients may feel uncomfortable or nervous about being tested. Efforts are made to assist the client to feel at ease, be informed, and perform honestly and at his/her best. It is also important to note that test results and written reports are used with appropriate sensitivity and discretion to ensure that clients are not adversely affected by any inappropriate use of such information. The benefits of completing a psychological assessment include a detailed picture of your overall functioning that will assist in your immigration/legal proceedings.

Confidentiality

In general, all communications between a client and a psychologist are confidential (privileged information protected by law), and such information can only be released to others with your written permission. However, there are a few exceptions to confidentiality, which are listed below. In the event of any of the following, I will do my best to discuss any release of confidential information that is necessary with you before taking action.

- *Threat to self or others* – If I believe that a client is threatening or causing serious bodily harm to another (e.g., homicidal ideation, child abuse, elder abuse), I am required by law to take protective actions. This may include notifying the potential victim, contacting the police or other appropriate authorities, or seeking hospitalization for the client. If the client threatens to harm himself/herself (e.g., suicidal ideation), I may be obligated to seek hospitalization for him/her or to contact family members or others who can help provide protection. If either situation occurs, the privileged information between a client and a psychologist is waived to the extent necessary to aid in protection efforts.

- *Minors* – If you are under eighteen years old, please be aware that your parent or guardian is allowed access to the report generated based on this evaluation. I will discuss this with you before releasing the report to them.
- *Requested Release of Information/Records* – I am sometimes asked to speak with, send records to, or request records from other professionals. On these occasions, you will be asked to sign a Release of Information from giving me permission to discuss your case with other professionals.
- *Communications with your attorney*- All communications between me and your attorney will be permitted in order to ensure cooperation in the completion and submission of your report.

Records

The laws and standards of our profession require that records be kept. You are entitled to receive a copy of your report.

Billing and payments

- The fee for the evaluation, including psychological assessment, written report, and consultation with your attorney, is _____.
- This is payable by cash, personal check, cashiers check, or money order. (*Checks made payable to: Restoring Hope Counseling, LLC.*) *If paying by card a service fee will be charged based on the amount paid with card.*
- Payment plans are offered in payment installments that can be discussed and arranged between client and therapist prior to first appointment.
- At least \$200 must be paid at the time of the initial appointment. You may pay in installments after that time in person through cash, check, or money order; or mailing a check/money order to my address. Once I receive full payment, I will send the completed report to your attorney.
- Normally 2-3 sessions are sufficient to obtain all the necessary information. If additional appointments are needed after the 3rd appointment, there will be a \$90 charge for every additional appointment.
- The time to complete the final report in the discussed evaluation cost above is 2-3 weeks. If you need the evaluation report expedited, there will be an additional charge of \$100.
- If I am required to testify in court, whether via phone or in-person, there will be an additional charge for my testimony. I may also charge for travel expenses (both mileage and time spent) required for testimony. If this is the case, we will discuss the amount prior to testifying and/or traveling.
- If I am required to meet with you in detention or at a facility other than my office, you will be charged mileage at a rate of 58 cents per mile. This is the current IRS mileage standard. Depending on the length of travel, you may also be charged an hourly rate for

the time it takes me to travel to that location. If this is the case, we will discuss the amount prior to my travel.

Client Authorization

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree with all the information on these pages.

Client Name (please print)

Signature of Client

Date

If client is a minor:

**Parent or Guardian Name
(please print)**

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date