INFORMED CONSENT FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS FOR CHILDREN/ADOLESCENTS

TalkaWhile
Child and Family Therapy Center PC

This document contains important information about our assessment series and policies. It also summarizes the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which provides privacy and rights with the regard to Protected Health Information (PHI), which is used for the purposes of payment, treatment, and utilizing health care services. Please read and sign this Agreement prior to beginning the assessment process for your child.

Psychological Assessment Process

Psychological assessment or testing is an effective way to:

- Assess your child's cognitive functioning, academic, behavioral, emotional, and/or psychological abilities and challenges;
- Provide diagnostic clarification (i.e. a psychiatrist can use these reports to help them differentiate between different diagnoses to aid them in tailoring medications. A typical example is differentiating between ADHD from anxiety, which are frequently misdiagnosed and mistreated); or
- Support the need for resources at schools, home, in treatment, or in the community (i.e. such as 504 plans, Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)). Psychoeducational testing is conducted utilizing intelligence (IQ) tests; academic/achievement tests; and possible neuropsychological measures.

Psychological testing typically consists of multiple independent tests given in a group, called a "battery," that with clinical expertise and interpretation can identify different aspects about how a child/adolescent thinks and reacts.

Depending on the reasons for a referral or the need for psychological assessments, the length of time of the battery may vary, and in cost. Usually, a common full, comprehensive battery of testing may take approximately between 12 to 17 plus hours, with pricing of testing being charged per hour. Typically, testing may take 2-3 office visits to conduct due to the length of time to administer the measures, provide feedback, and gain history from families.

Psychological assessment processes will often include:

1. Brief triage phone call: This consultation phone call of up to 15 minutes is to discuss the reasons why your child/adolescent may benefit from testing, to obtain additional information and relevant history from you, and initiate the paperwork and screening process.

2. Initial visit/Clinical Interview/Questionnaires: Expect to be at our center for several hours to begin the testing process. Expect about 1-2 hours of time to be spent with caregivers and the child/adolescent to answer questions about the evaluation, and to gain a thorough history and background of your child.

3. Assessment: You most likely may be asked to complete a number of parent, and/or teacher self-report questionnaires. Depending on the measures, they may be completed on your own, or during your appointment at our center. Testing measures will also be conducted with your child, separately, while you may be completing questionnaires. Depending on the reason(s) for testing, this may take a few or several hours over the course of 1-3 visits.

4. Collateral Information: If necessary, we may wish to speak over the phone, with others involved in your child's/adolescent's life for further history or data. This may include teachers, other caregivers, therapists, or other treatment providers. This information will NOT be sought, without your signed consent and your child's signed consent if 12 or over.

5. Scoring/Interpretation of results/Report writing: The psychologist administering the assessment measures will manually or digitally score the tests, interpret results, and write a comprehensive report and summary.

6. Feedback Session: A final office visit will be scheduled to review the findings of the assessment, provide recommendations which may include recommendations to be implemented at home, school, in treatment, or in the community, and a copy of the report. Depending on your child's age, feedback may be given separately to parents, and then with your child in an age-appropriate manner.

Please expect for the entire process to take between 3-6 weeks, once the first appointment is scheduled. Our goal is to provide you with timely, yet thorough and collaborative results and feedback.

Pricing

The cost of psychological testing is charged by the hour. Our hourly rate is **$250 per hour**. The total cost of psychologically assessment/testing may range; totaling a cost of

$3000 and higher. We will provide you with an estimated cost of testing for your child's specific needs, which will be adjusted based on the time spent during the process including meetings, discussions, information gathering, administration of the measures, scoring, interpretation, report writing and length of the feedback session.

A payment of $1,500 is due on the first day of testing, with the balance due at your feedback session. The final report at the feedback session appointment will not be provided if the final balance is not paid in full. Payment may be made in cash or check.

A cancellation fee will also be incurred for **$250** if appointments are not cancelled within 48 business hours (not including weekends, or holidays). Cancellations must be made via phone at 408-962-9267.

Confidentiality

By law, we are not allowed to disclose your or your child's health or personal information without your written consent. There are limits to confidentiality which may require us to break confidentiality, as our role as mandated reporters and this may require us to notify proper authorities such as the local police or the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). This would only occur if one or more of the following is reported to us in our testing or services:

1. Suspected child abuse or neglect.
2. Suspected elder or dependent adult abuse or neglect.
3. If your child expresses a severe intent or plan to harm themselves or others.
4. If a court order is in place, requiring the release of records or reports directly to be submitted to the court.

Requests for Additional Copies of the Report of Summaries

At the final feedback session, you will be provided with one full copy of the testing report. A summary of the report may be requested or additional copies, for an additional fee of 25 cents per page.

Families, at times, may request further documentation in the form of a letter, summary, or other document to provide to a 3rd party such as schools, courts, or other treatment providers. These brief letters may be requested, and additional charges will be required at a cost of $250 per hour. Requested letters will be completed within one week of the date of request.

By signing below, I have read and agreed with the procedures and protocol for Talk-a-While's Psychological testing, and received a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices requirements under HIPAA Privacy Rule.

_____	_____
Printed name of Examinee	Date
_____	_____
(Signature of Examinee, if 12 or over)	Date
_____	_____
(Printed name of Parent/Guardian)	Date
_____	_____
(Signature of Parent/Guardian)	Date