



Child Welfare Assessment Screening Information Form

Please complete this form and return it **ASAP** by fax to (519)675-7772, attn: Rebecca Warder

Today's Date: _____

Case Name: _____

Referring Agency: _____ Worker's Name: _____

Agency's Lawyer: _____

Has the Director of Ongoing Protection Services signed and approved an assessment?

Yes No

Parties Involved

Number of adult parties to be included in the assessment & their ages: _____

Number of homes: _____ Number of children & their ages: _____

Number of Foster homes: _____ Location(s): _____

Length and nature of CAS involvement: _____

Assessment Issues

Type of referral: Section 54 treatment planning other (if other please describe): _____

Has a previous parenting assessment been done on this family? If so, by whom and when: _____

Is the agency seeking crown wardship? Yes No With access? Yes No

Is there to be a psychological component to the assessment? Yes No

How many Plans are being put forth in this assessment? _____

Is this assessment court ordered? Yes No If yes, which court and date of order:

Are the parent's in agreement with the assessment? Yes No

What is the next court date? _____

What date is the report required? _____

What are the issues of concern with each parent (ie: domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues): _____

What are the concerns about the child/ren?: _____

What is the current Access schedule (please list day, time, location, and if it is supervised or not) _____

Other relevant information: _____

This screening form is the first step in the referral process. Please refer to the referral requirements list to see what additional information we require. We need to receive all additional requirements into our office before the assessment will be put on our waiting list for assignment.

CHILD WELFARE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

(all requirements to be sent in one package)

1. **Order** for the Section 54 Assessment (ideally with court order for assessment ordering the release of police and medical/psychiatric documentation on the parties to be assessed)
2. **Written summary of the society involvement with the family and the issues/questions that are to be addressed in the assessment.** We ask that the worker or legal counsel summarize all of the CAS involvement in an effort to reduce the amount of time the assessment takes to complete.
3. **Signed consents** from the child(ren)'s legal guardian which authorizes sharing of all information regarding the child(ren).
4. **Administrative fee** a cheque for \$150.00 payable to the London Family Court Clinic.
5. **All parent support worker/family management worker's monthly summaries** for the last 6 months (continuing summaries to be forwarded throughout the assessment process).
6. **Copies of all supervised or non-supervised access visit notes** (not case file notes).
7. **Any police information** that the Society has obtained on the client(s).
8. **All medical/psychological/psychiatric information** that the Society has obtained on the client(s).
9. **Contact information** (see attached sheet)
10. **Collateral contact information** (see attached sheet). As well as all medical, developmental, school, psychiatric etc. assessments completed on the child(ren).
11. **Latest differential response assessment report** on the family outlining strengths/weaknesses.
12. **Plan of care's** for this family for the past 6 months.

If there is additional information not included in the list that you believe is pertinent to the assessment, please do not send the information but call the assessor to discuss once an assessor has been assigned to your case. **Please notify us immediately if there is a change of workers assigned to this family.**

Clinical Services

Young Offender Assessments	Child Welfare Assessments
Clinical Supports to Youths at Risk	Violence Prevention Programs
Child Witness Project	Mediation Services
London Custody & Access Project	Counselling Services

Research & Training

Advocacy	Initiatives
Public Policy & Legislative Development	Program Evaluation
Resource & Program Development	Public Speaking Presentations
Professional Workshops & Training	Publications



Child Welfare Assessment **Contact Information Form**

If you require more space, please append a separate sheet.

Child(ren)'s Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
Child(ren)'s Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
Child(ren)'s Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
Child(ren)'s Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Name of Foster Parent(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Name of Foster Parent(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Name of mother & date of birth: _____

Address & phone number(s): _____

Name of father & date of birth: _____

Address & phone number(s): _____

Name and date of birth of others seeking a caregiver role with the child(ren): _____

Mother's lawyer (name, address and phone/fax numbers): _____

Father's lawyer (name, address and phone/fax numbers): _____

Children's lawyer (name, address and phone/fax numbers): _____

Re: Various assessments provided by our Child Welfare Team and Range of Costs

Parenting Capacity Assessments:

As noted in the separate brochure, these assessments require more time to complete given the number of parties to be examined, the plans to speak to, and the questions to address with regards to the best plan for the children and the parenting capabilities of those being assessed. PCA evaluations may have to examine issues in the family related to mental health, parenting challenges, substance misuse, violence, trauma, neglect, etc. PCA evaluations include interviews, testing, observations, extensive documentation reviews, analysis of collateral data, input from the children and foster family or care giver, synthesis and interpretation of findings, as well as ongoing feedback. The timeline is likely to be between 3-5 months to conduct the assessment and the cost remains \$14,500. Should the PCA require a cognitive assessment too, an additional cost is added (see below).

Psychological and/or Mental Health Assessments:

These assessments typically explore underlying factors that may be impacting an individual's social, emotional, and/or behavioural functioning. This includes an assessment of personality style and the use and effectiveness of current coping mechanisms to assist in clinical diagnosis. If one is looking for purely psychological testing and determination of pertinent contextual factors, possibly resulting in a diagnosis, it will likely be 2 months to complete, with a cost range between \$6000 to 8000.

However, if the assessor is being asked to examine extensive medical/mental health documentation and other collateral information within a Mental Health framework more time is required. The time to complete the evaluation is likely to be more in the range of 3 months, and the cost range for this likely to be in the range of \$8000 to \$10,000. It is important to note that these evaluations (psychological and/or mental health assessment) are not to be confused with psychiatric assessments. A psychiatric assessment is conducted by a psychiatrist (a medical doctor), and may address issues of medication along with a diagnosis.

Cognitive Assessment:

A cognitive assessment focuses on assessing an individual's cognitive or intellectual functioning. The profile that emerges provides an indication of an individual's cognitive skills in the verbal comprehension domain (e.g., vocabulary and general knowledge) and non-verbal/perceptual organizational domain (e.g., nonverbal reasoning, attention to visual detail and sequencing). Memory capabilities, adaptive functioning, learning style, etc., may also be assessed in these evaluations. It will provide a sense of how challenging it may be for an individual to process new information. These assessments will often take 4-8 weeks to complete. The cost range for these assessments will be \$2,500 to \$5,000, with the higher cost occurring when adaptive functioning and possibly diagnosis related to ODSP applications may be required.

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Psycho-educational Assessment:

A psycho-educational assessment includes an assessment of a client's cognitive functioning and areas of academic strength and weakness. This type of assessment assists in determining appropriate academic programming as well as diagnosing learning disabilities. Analysis of the child's school records, previous testing, classroom observations (if currently in school), input from the care givers etc., will assist in completion of the assessment. They can take around 4-8 weeks to complete, depending on the ability of the child to focus, the volume of documents to review, etc. Costs will typically range from \$2500-\$5000 again depending on the time required to complete the work, the volume of psychometric measures to complete, score and interpret, etc.

Attachment and/or Access Assessment:

An attachment based assessment focuses on the quality of the relationship and interactions between parent and child and/or between siblings. They require many of the same elements completed in a Parenting Capacity Assessment, including observations, testing, extensive documentation review, as well as relevant collateral contacts to assist in the evaluation. This type of assessment assists in making recommendations regarding placement and access arrangements. They may take 3-4 months to complete and the cost range is \$8000 to \$10,000.

Trauma Assessment:

A trauma based assessment focuses on gaining a better understanding of the child's or parent's environment and events the child or parent has been exposed to or witnessed, as well as the impact these experiences have had on social, emotional, and/or behavioural functioning. Length of time to complete these assessments varies on each case, depending on the time it takes to develop rapport, the questions to be addressed, and the pace at which the client is comfortable working with the assessor. Cost range falls in the \$6000 to \$8000 range, with an approximate 2-3 month time-frame for completion.

Progress Evaluations or Updates

Sometimes, arising out of consultations or contacts by workers and/or supervisors, the need for narrow, focused assessments to answer certain questions for foster children, or parent clients, may arise. A progress evaluation or assessment can look at changes made in terms of the client's development, effectiveness of treatment in a certain area, etc.. These assessments require briefer processes than complete diagnostic assessments and would be billed at the clinical hourly rate of \$200.00 an hour.

Clinical Consultations:

Our assessors are available for clinical consultation at our clinical rate of \$200.00 an hour to assist staff/teams to plan how best to assist children and families with whom they are working with within the various CAS agencies. Consultations may help workers figure out what new information may be helpful, what further questions to pursue with a family, how to move forward with a case, etc. Assessors are not ethically permitted to offer recommendations on cases when involved in consultations.

Caution: Completing a consultation on a case has to be open and up front to all, including the family and thus it may result in the consulting person no longer being eligible to complete an assessment with this family as the consultant may no longer be perceived as neutral.

Finally: As with all the assessments, follow up consultation, court preparation and testimony are billed separately at the clinical hourly rate of \$200.00 an hour.

Other Assessments for Children or Families:

Our Centre also provides a variety of assessments or consultations for various social service agencies, including:

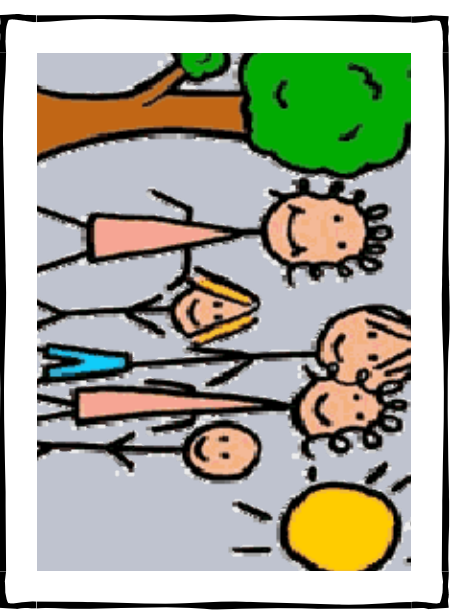


- Clinical consultation regarding access
- Treatment planning for children
- Psychoeducational/cognitive assessments of children, youth, and adults
- Assessment of attachment relationships
- Trauma assessment for children
- Assessment or planning for open adoption
- Psychological assessment of adults
- Custody & access assessments

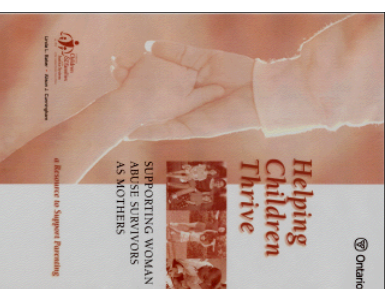
Child Welfare Assessments

Under the Child and Family

Services Act



Please see our website at www.lfccc.on.ca for more information or to see a list of our publications.



For more information on **CHILD WELFARE ASSESSMENTS** or to make a referral, please contact

Rebecca Warden:

Tel: 519-679-7250 ext. 104

Fax: 519-675-7772

Email: cwa@lfccc.on.ca

Our approach to these assessments involves best practice guidelines, an unbiased focus, and all information is considered within the best interests of the child.

The Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System

254 Pall Mall Street, Suite 200
London, Ontario Canada N6A 5P6



Formerly known as The London Family Court Clinic

Parenting Capacity Assessments

Parenting Capacity Assessments, also known as Child Welfare Assessments, under the Child and Family Services Act (Section 54), are available to lawyers, courts, Children's Aid Societies, or other community agencies to assist in making decisions about the best interests of children.

Our Centre's child welfare services should only be considered when a Children's Aid Society is already involved. We are an independent and neutral agency and do not



replace the work of the Children's Aid Society. Our Centre's mandate is to provide lawyers and the court with an independent assessment in the event that there is an unresolved conflict between the Children's Aid Society and the parents over supervision, placement, treatment planning, access arrangements, and/or custody of a child(ren).

What is a Parenting Assessment?

Assessors gather information from different sources about: the needs of the child(ren) involved; the ability of the parent(s) to meet their child(ren)'s needs; the skills of the parent(s) to overcome identified challenges; the quality of the parent-child relationship; and supports available to the family.

The information gathered is analyzed and recommendations are made based on the best interests of the child(ren). Recommendations can address placement options for the child(ren), long term planning, treatment suggestions for the child(ren), and/or services that might help the parent(s) work out problem areas. When looking at placement options, the final decision always rests with the courts.

Reasons for Parenting Assessments

Those working with the families may feel that concerns or difficulties in one or more areas may be making it hard for the caregiver to cope as a parent. Some examples are depression or grief, anger control, mental health issues, stress, anxiety, current or past abuse of alcohol and/or drugs, criminal activity, etc. Such difficulties interfere with parenting and may prevent a parent from meeting a child's needs.



What to Expect

Although Parenting Capacity Assessments are often court ordered, we consider a parent's participation in an assessment to be voluntary and a parent can withdraw from the process at any time. Assessments typically take 3-4 months involving several sessions, often lasting 2-3 hours in length. The assessment includes:

- A first appointment outlining the process of the assessment, gaining the consent of the parent(s), and explaining the limits to confidentiality for these assessments;
- Interviews with all those putting forth a parenting plan to discuss the family situation, the background history, parent's views on parenting, and on their children's needs;
- Completing questionnaires and rating scales to learn more about the parents' psychological functioning and views on parenting;
- Observations of parent-child interactions;
- Assessing the child's needs; and
- Gathering information from collateral sources such as physicians, counselors, police, other services or supports, and friends or family.



Parents will receive feedback on the assessment and be able to discuss the results and recommendations with the assessors. A report will be prepared and made available to the parents through their lawyer. Copies of the report are also provided to the Court and the Children's Aid Society.