

Client Copy - Assessment

INFORMATION AND CONSENT DOCUMENT

I have been selected as the *independent non-treating* Psychologist to conduct your psychological assessment for a clinical, vocational or legal process. This document tells you about my background, informs you about the assessment service, and outlines the nature of our professional relationship.

QUALIFICATIONS and EXPERIENCE

I am registered as a Psychologist under the national laws of Australia, and endorsed as both a Counselling Psychologist and Clinical Psychologist. My qualifications include a Doctorate in clinical psychology, Masters degree in guidance and counselling, and Graduate Diploma of Counselling. My training has been predominantly in Queensland (Australia), Ohio (USA), and Rome (Italy). I am a Member of the *Australian Psychological Society* (and *College of Clinical Psychologists*), and the *Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*. With nearly 30 years of professional experience in education and psychology, I have expertise in a range of clinical areas, can evaluate for mental disorders (DSM-IV-TR; APA, 2000), and am accredited to assess psychiatric impairment (PIRS; Parmegiani, 1999). I have completed approximately 100 medico-legal and psychological reports in the last five years.

NATURE of PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Psychological assessment is the process of applying objective tests to specific needs. I use valid, reliable psychometric instruments in combination with a structured, focused clinical interview. Psychological tests are used in combination with a number of processes such as: resumes/CVs, interviews, reports, work experiences, references, and information from others. Although your session may be emotionally and psychologically intimate and intense, it is important you remember we have a professional relationship not a personal or clinical one. Our face-to-face contact is limited to the sessions you have with me.

Although I will be reporting to the person/people requesting this assessment, I am being asked to evaluate you in my role as an *independent non-treating* psychologist. The final psychological report will represent my perceptions of your functioning as of this date, based on information shared by you and others. It should not be used as the sole basis for decisions regarding you nor be used on a long-term basis without further consideration. You should know that you are undertaking this assessment voluntarily and of your own freewill.

RECORDS, PRIVACY and CONFIDENTIALITY

All of your communication with me becomes part of the clinical record. I will keep secure and confidential my file of this assessment process. You need to understand that ours is a professional relationship based on me providing an assessment and a report about you. It will be necessary for me to disclose things you have said to me as part of the reporting process, so our conversations should not be considered by you as being private between us. If there is anything you would not want any current or future reader of the report to know, simply do not tell me. If you have consulted any medical practitioner, or any other health provider, I will collect information from them to facilitate a comprehensive report. Likewise, if you are involved in any legal process I will access all relevant documents to facilitate my report writing. I may communicate with the person referring you for this report for additional information about you. I do not electronically-record sessions and I do not grant you permission to record them, or any of our conversations, either.

If you have any questions about this document, ask me at the start of the assessment.

◆ Retain this copy for future reference ◆

If you become distressed and are in need of support, contact your GP or a 24-hr crisis agency (e.g., Lifeline ☎ 13 11 14).



APS Psychologists: 'Good Thinking'

The Australian Psychological Society Ltd

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