

Doray Psychological Services, P.L.L.C.

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Court Fee Policy

Fees and Fee Policy: Currently, the fees for forensic/court consultation from DPS are based on an hourly rate of **\$200.00**. All work related to a case is billable, including, but not limited to, diagnostic evaluations, administration, scoring and interpretation of psychological tests, consultations with attorneys and/or other individuals who have information relevant to a case (for example, teachers in child custody evaluations), the review of records, discovery, or other evaluations, preparation and record review prior to a deposition or court testimony, depositions and/or testimony, and travel time to offsite locations, such as court, attorney offices, schools, or home visits. Please note that insurance companies **DO NOT** reimburse for procedure codes associated with a court evaluation or court related work.

Clients and attorneys understand that payment of fees is for the professional services provided, and, as a psychologist/mental health professional, we do not work on a contingency basis. There are times when an evaluation/consultation may not be helpful to a client, and the client and his/her attorney will need to decide how, or if, to use an evaluation/consultation.

Retainer: A retainer is requested prior to beginning a forensic/court evaluation or consultation, and the **balance is paid in full prior to release of the report**. The retainer fee generally is **\$2000.00** for each evaluation/court consultation (i.e. 2 adults = \$4000; 2 adults, 2 children = \$8000). A **separate retainer** will be required for attendance at the court hearing/deposition in order to clear out the professional's schedule for the hearing/deposition (\$1000 for ½ day and \$1600 for full day). There are some exceptions made to this policy on a case by case basis, depending on who is responsible for payment. (For example, if a state agency is responsible for payment, then the evaluation can proceed with written approval for the estimated cost of the evaluation.) Any unused portion of the retainer will be returned at the conclusion of the case. For the convenience of clients, who wish to, or need to, make payments over a period of time, the retainer and/or all fees can be paid by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover).

Appointment Procedures for an Evaluation:

Procedures vary according to the nature of the case:

1. If a court order authorizes the evaluation (such as child custody cases) then a copy of the order must be forwarded to DPS prior to the initial appointment. The purpose, or goal, of the evaluation should be stated in the order. It is helpful if the order specifies any time frames requested by the court for completion of the report. The order also should require the cooperation of the parties to be evaluated. When a court order is issued for a psychological evaluation, the client and/or his/her attorney should contact DPS immediately to confirm that we have received the order, and to schedule an initial appointment.
2. In family court cases where two opposing attorneys or clients have agreed to an evaluation, without an order, then either a consent agreement, signed by the parties, or a letter from each attorney, indicating agreement to cooperate with the evaluation, is recommended. Once an agreement is reached, the parties or their attorneys should contact DPS to schedule their appointments.
3. If the person to be evaluated is a minor, a parent or guardian must accompany him/her to the office to sign a release. In any event, a signed release from the juvenile's guardian, or a letter from his/her attorney empowering DPS to complete the evaluation, must precede the release of the report.
4. In other cases, when an attorney is requesting an evaluation of a client, the client can simply call for an appointment. However, it is usually better if the attorney either calls or sends a letter first, clarifying the purpose of the evaluation, as clients sometimes present misinformation regarding the evaluation. This can lead to the need for additional appointments, which is a financial burden to the client.
5. If the examinee/client does not keep the appointment, or the appointment is cancelled less than 24 hours from the time of the appointment, there is a facility and professional loss-time fee of \$200 for each hour missed/cancelled.