



Because of all the information collected, this can be a lengthy process. At a minimum, the process can take anywhere from eight to ten weeks to complete, but depending on the speed with which all parties schedule and keep their appointments, it can take as long as six months.

It must be stressed that unlike conventional therapy, there is **no confidentiality** in anything that you or anyone else contacted discloses. Any information that I deem appropriate will be disclosed to the court. Please do not advise your children that what they discuss with me will be kept confidential. Be aware that in addition to disclosure to the court, the opposing attorney can issue a subpoena for all information that I have collected during the course of this evaluation.

The purpose of this evaluation is to assist the court in determining what is the best interest of your child(ren). My role is to assist the court in whatever way it deems appropriate and necessary.

I enter this evaluation with no preconceived ideas and no knowledge of the circumstances of the dispute. By design, I have only limited contact with the attorneys on either side, and prefer to speak to them only via a three-way conference call with both attorneys present. This way, there can be no appearance of bias towards one side or the other.

Once the evaluation is completed, it will be forwarded to the court and your attorney. The report will contain a summary of the information I have collected, along with my recommendations. Once the report is delivered to the court, I prefer to communicate only with your attorney. I do not meet with any of the parties involved after the completion of the evaluation, either by telephone or in person, unless such a meeting is explicitly recommended in the report.

My recommendations are just those, recommendations. It is entirely up to the court to make the final decision. The court may decide to accept all, some, or none of my recommendations.

Your initial visit today will consist of psychological testing. The purpose of the testing is to help identify personality traits and characteristics as they relate to parenting, as well as to provide me with information regarding the manner in which you perceive your child and the parent child relationship. The tests will be scored and interpreted by me and this information will be included in the custody report. You may discuss any questions that you have about the testing or questionnaires at the time of our first interview.

You will also be given a parenting questionnaire to complete. The questionnaire is lengthy and will take some time to finish. However, it does give me a great deal of information about you, your family, and your particular circumstances. Once you have completed it, please schedule the rest of the interviews. You may discuss any questions that you have about the testing or questionnaires at the time of our first interview.

You may meet with one of my clinical associates (C. Christiane Creveling, Ph.D.; Jennifer Machen, MS, LPC, NCC; Holland Miller, Psy.D., LPC) who will ask you a series of predetermined questions that I have developed to ensure that I obtain the same information from both parties in order to protect my neutrality. Your final family session may be videotaped so that I might have the opportunity to review it in more depth if I feel it necessary.

Each parent is responsible for their half of the fee (or responsible for payment of fees as ordered by the court) to be paid at the time of the first interview. **Please Note:** The fee quoted is for conducting the custody evaluation and submitting a report to the Court. There may be additional charges for other services, such as giving depositions, court appearances (including travel time), attorney conferences, etc.

You may submit any documentation, letters, pictures, tapes, etc. for me to review. I am happy to review what you submit, but obviously, the more succinct the information, the more efficient my evaluation in terms of time. If, for example, you are concerned about your child's grades, I can probably glean enough information based on her last two report cards rather than an entire nine weeks' worth of tests. I must ask that you **NOT bring your only copy of any document, tape, or pictures, or any originals.** I must keep all documents that are submitted in a permanent file. **I will not be held responsible for the return of any personal items left with me regarding your case.**

If at any time you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the evaluation, please let me know immediately. There is no question too trivial during this important process and I cannot alleviate concerns that you may have if I do not know about them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Some sessions may be video or audio taped. Please place your initials at the beginning of this paragraph to acknowledge that you have read and understand this.

Your signature below signifies that you agree to all of the terms discussed above without exception. If you have any questions about any of this information, please ask either my staff or myself.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alicia Pellegrin, Ph.D.  
Clinical Psychologist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Name (Please print)