
FORENSIC COUNSELING SERVICES

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Program Director

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EVALUATION FEES

One of the ways in which evaluators maintain neutrality and ethical practice is by assuring that fee payment is not contingent on a particular recommendation or outcome. As such all evaluation fees are due in advance as a refundable retainer.

Child custody evaluation:

A completed child custody evaluation is billed at a flat base rate based on the chart below. This base rate covers interviews of up to five persons (adults and/or children) involved in the case. There is an additional charge of per party for each additional person to be interviewed beyond the first five.

The base rate also covers collection of standard collateral information, review of basic documentation, and completion of a report to the court. It does not cover review of depositions, review of Child Protective Services records, or other substantial records review. Such additional work is billed based on a standard hourly rate as noted below.

Primary Evaluator	Base rate (<i>per party</i>)	Additional interviews (<i>per party</i>)	Standard hourly rate
Aaron Robb, Ph.D., LPC-S	\$4,500.00	\$150.00	\$300.00
Mindy Harrison, LCSW	\$3,500.00	\$100.00	\$250.00
Susan Etheridge, LMSW	\$3,000.00	\$100.00	\$200.00

Unless otherwise specifically ordered by the court fees for services will be split between the parties. Should the case settle, or our services otherwise terminate prior to completion of a report to the court refunds will be issued based on actual time worked on the case, billed at the standard hourly rate, with all administrative time prior to start of interviews billed at Dr. Robb's hourly rate. Each of the parties will be responsible for any fees for production of records or other information related to the evaluation. Generally, any adults or any children not involved in the litigation but living with the children in question must be interviewed as a part of the evaluation. Additionally in most cases any long-term boyfriend, girlfriend, or fiancé of either of the parties will be interviewed as well. Who is interviewed and what documents are reviewed are decided solely at the evaluator's discretion.

Unanticipated circumstances may necessitate additional hours of service outside those estimated in the retainer. These include but are not limited to: additional interviews; extensive telephone contact time; additional document review; any and all procedures to assess fresh allegations or issues which were not included in the original retainer estimate; and other case specific factors. Should costs rise above the retainer estimate the attorneys will be notified and the original retainer will be revised.

Adoption evaluation:

Contested adoption evaluations are billed in the same manner as child custody evaluations, as they require similar services. Uncontested adoption evaluations (pre-placement, post-placement, or combined) are offered at a substantial discount, and are billed at the following base rates:

Primary Evaluator	Stepparent or other relative adoptions	Non-relative adoptions	Standard hourly rate for additional work
Aaron Robb, Ph.D.	\$950.00	\$1250.00	\$300.00
Mindy Harrison, LCSW	\$950.00	\$1250.00	\$250.00

As with child custody evaluations, there are occasionally unusual circumstances that require additional fees. Assistance in completing the Health, Education, Social, and Genetic History report for a non-relative adoption can be provided at standard hourly fees.

Court appearances:

For any requested appearance, deposition, or participation in any type of settlement conference: \$250.00 per hour, per staff member, or \$400.00 per hour for Dr. Robb, with a minimum charge of three hours for personal appearances, or a minimum charge of one hour for telephonic appearances. Such fees are due at least one week before the scheduled appearance. Please note if the fee is not received at least one week in advance there will be an additional \$250.00 express charge applied due to the late confirmation of the request. If an appearance request is received without a minimum of one week notice the appearance fee is due immediately and there will be an additional \$350.00 express charge due to the lack of notice.

Expedited evaluations:

We usually do not provide expedited evaluations. It generally takes several weeks for completion of paperwork, receiving background checks, and obtaining other collateral records. While interviews can be done concurrently this is also a process that, when combined with reviewing collateral information and writing reports, takes several weeks as well. Additionally, we are providing services to a number of families at any given time and “expedited” evaluations can disrupt the regular workflow (when it is possible to accommodate such requests at all). As such there are large surcharges for expedited evaluations. If the evaluation is needed by a certain date, please bring that to our attention when services are initiated.

Travel:

There is no additional fee for evaluations conducted in Collin or Denton Counties. If any party lives outside of these counties an additional travel fee may be charged. Travel time is charged per hour, rounded up to the nearest 15-minute increment, at half the standard hourly rate (above).

For evaluations requiring airline or overnight travel in addition to the standard rates fees are charged for travel time and travel expenses. Travel time is charged per hour, rounded up to the nearest 15-minute increment, at half the standard hourly rate (above), and is logged as any time spent from airport arrival to hotel and back again. Travel expenses include the full expense of the airfare, a hotel room, and a rental vehicle with gasoline reimbursement or taxi fees. An additional base retainer will be calculated based on expected travel time and expenses and is due before any travel arrangements will be made.

Other evaluation related services:

For "home studies" and other services we charge a minimum four hours at a base rate that depends on the nature of the activity requested. For cases that will require more than four hours of services the initial retainer may be higher. This will be estimated once the nature of services being requested has been discussed.