

## FORENSIC COUNSELING SERVICES SOCIAL STUDY 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 social study fees are due as an advance retainer.

### Contested custody:

A completed social study by Mr. Robb is billed at a flat base rate of \$2000.00 per party. Completed social studies by Mr. Robb's staff are billed at a flat base rate of \$1000.00 per party. This base rate covers interviews of up to five adults and/or children involved in the case. There is an additional charge of \$100.00 per party (\$50.00 per party for staff) for each additional adult or child 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 over one hour in length per party, review of extensive Child Protective Services records, or other substantial records review. Such additional work is billed based on a standard hourly rate of \$200.00 per hour for Mr. Robb or \$100.00 for staff.

Should the case settle 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. Unless otherwise specifically ordered by the court, fees for services will be split between the parties. Additionally 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 social study. 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 before proceeding further and the original retainer will be revised.

### Adoption:

In stepparent or other relative adoptions there is a flat fee of \$550.00. For non-relative adoptions the fee is \$700.00. As with contested custody evaluations, there are occasionally unusual circumstances that require additional fees. Assistance in completing the Health, Education, Social, and Genetic History report for an unrelated adoption can be provided at the standard fee of \$200.00 per hour.

### Court appearances:

For any requested appearance, deposition, or participation in any type of settlement conference: \$300.00 per hour, with a minimum charge of three hours. Such fees are due at least one week before the scheduled appearance. Please note: if an appearance request is received without a minimum of one week notice there will be an additional \$300.00 express charge.

### Expedited studies:

We usually do not provide expedited studies. 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" studies can disrupt the regular work flow (when it is possible to accommodate such requests at all). As such there are large surcharges for expedited studies. If the social study is needed by a certain date please bring that to our attention when services are initiated.

### Travel:

There is no additional fee for studies conducted in Collin, Dallas, Denton, or Tarrant Counties. If any party lives outside of these counties an additional travel fee may be charged. Travel time is charged at \$100.00 per hour (\$50.00 per hour for staff), rounded up to the nearest 15-minute increment.

For studies requiring airline or overnight travel in addition to the standard study rates fees are charged for travel time and travel expenses. Travel time is charged at \$100.00 per hour (\$50.00 per hour for staff), rounded up to the nearest 15-minute increment, 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 social study related services:

For "home studies" and other services we charge a minimum fee of \$800.00. For activities 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.