



## Probation Service Definition

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS & PROBATION

<b>SERVICE NAME</b>	<b>Psychological Evaluation</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juvenile
<b>Category</b>	Evaluation
<b>Setting</b>	Professional office environment, clinic, mental health substance use center, private practice, teleservice or other environment appropriate to the provision of evaluation/assessment services.
<b>Facility License</b>	As required by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Division of Public Health.
<b>Service Description</b>	<p>A Psychological Evaluation consists of a biopsychosocial evaluation and psychological testing. Standardized testing is utilized to assess an youth’s psychological or cognitive functioning.</p> <p>In most cases, a mental health, substance use or co-occurring evaluation is sufficient to diagnose, recommend services and provide sufficient information to begin treatment; when initial evaluations identify the need for additional, in-depth evaluation, a Psychological Evaluation may be appropriate. The need for, and extent of, the psychological testing must be identified in the initial evaluation and indicate specific testing needs/requirements.</p> <p>Psychological testing may be completed to answer cognitive functioning questions, to assist with necessary differential diagnosis issues and/or to help resolve specific treatment planning concerns. It also may occur again later in treatment if the individual’s condition has not progressed since the initial treatment plan and there is no clear explanation for the lack of improvement.</p>
<b>Service Expectations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A basic biopsychosocial evaluation and written report should be completed following the standardized psychological reporting format. The recommendations from the evaluation will identify the specific need for and reasons why psychological testing is needed</li> <li>▪ The primary focus of psychological evaluation is the psychological testing. Requested tests must be standardized, valid and reliable in order to answer the specific clinical question for the specific population under consideration. The most recent version of the test must be used, except as outlined in Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing™</li> <li>▪ Psychological testing may include the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intelligence/achievement; cognitive abilities</li> <li>▪ Personality</li> <li>▪ Aptitudes and Attitudes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Based on the referral question(s), the testing must be reasonably anticipated to provide results and information that will effectively guide the course of treatment.</li> <li>▪ Results of psychological testing are scored and interpreted and a formal report explains the testing, results, clinical interpretation and treatment recommendations in writing. The report is sent to the referring clinician/agency for use in treatment planning. Every client is entitled to a clear explanation of the results of testing and recommendations for treatment.</li> <li>▪ Examples of psychological tests that may be used, but not limited to, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individual tests to evaluate cognitive and intellectual abilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Wechsler series</li> <li>▪ The Stanford-Binet</li> <li>▪ The Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Individual, objective, and projective tests of personality and emotional states and traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory</li> <li>▪ The Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory</li> <li>▪ The Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Projective techniques including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Rorschach Ink Blots</li> <li>▪ Thematic Apperception Test</li> <li>▪ The Holtzman Ink Blots</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A Psychological Evaluation will include these areas during the clinical interview and in the narrative report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presenting problem and goals described by client and collateral contacts</li> <li>▪ Social history and environmental influences</li> <li>▪ Family dynamics, including demographic information, historical information and treatment history</li> <li>▪ Mental health history, including symptoms, diagnoses, treatment interventions/outcomes, including psychotherapeutic medication</li> <li>▪ Academic, intellectual and vocational history, including IQ, learning disabilities/behavioral disorders, interventions and outcomes</li> <li>▪ Medical history, including development, prenatal/birth/developmental milestones, history of illnesses/injuries/conditions, chronic conditions, medications taken, sexual development, menstrual history, pregnancies and births or fathered children</li> <li>▪ Legal history, including offenses against the client, history and current legal status</li> <li>▪ Offender issues, including incarceration, probation, violence to person or property</li> <li>▪ Victim issues, including neglect and emotional, verbal, physical or sexual assault or abuse</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Substance use history, including personal use, family history and treatment history</li> <li>▪ Personal assets and liabilities, including strengths and current barriers to success</li> <li>▪ Collateral information from at least two (2) sources</li> <li>▪ Psychological testing, including rationale for instruments utilized and results/findings</li> <li>▪ Summary and analysis of the findings from the interview and testing</li> <li>▪ Diagnostic impression and findings, including amenability to treatment, internal motivation and justification for diagnosis/diagnoses to evaluate the client’s progress during treatment and measure outcomes at discharge, recommended linkages with community resources and any areas for further evaluation</li> <li>▪ Recommendations, including identifying the primary/ideal level of care, barriers to the recommendations/available level of care, client/family response to the recommendations, identification of who needs to be involved in the client’s treatment, treatment plan that includes transitioning to lower levels of care/discharge planning, a means to evaluate the client’s progress during treatment and measure outcomes at discharge, recommended linkages with community resources and any areas for further evaluation</li> </ul> <p>Approved Reporting Format: The Psychological Evaluation written report must be provided in the Probation-approved reporting format only as detailed on the appropriate evaluation worksheet.</p>
<b>Service Frequency</b>	The biopsychosocial evaluation and psychological testing will be completed as soon as possible after referral. The psychological testing portion of the psychological evaluation should not need to be completed more than once unless there is a significant change in the youth’s symptoms and behaviors.
<b>Length of Stay</b>	The formal biopsychosocial evaluation typically takes up to two (2) hours and the psychological testing typically will take two to three (2 to 3) hours, with the total for both the evaluation and the testing averaging five (5) hours.
<b>Staffing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensed Psychologist</li> <li>• Provisionally Licensed Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychological Assistants – if licensed independently as a mental health practitioner (LIMHP)</li> <li>• All providers must hold a current, valid Nebraska license through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Division of Public Health and must act within their scope of practice.</li> <li>• All providers must be trained in trauma-informed care, recovery principles and crisis management</li> </ul>
<b>Staff to Client Ratio</b>	1 clinician to 1 youth
<b>Hours of Operation</b>	Providers are expected to be flexible in scheduling and be available evenings and/or weekends to accommodate the service needs.

<b>Service Desired Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychological evaluation uses psychological testing to inform behavioral health diagnostic impressions, recommended behavioral health services and treatment plan needs.</li> <li>• Psychological testing results provide additional data and information to assist with the development of the treatment plan.</li> <li>• Individual completes all tests administered.</li> <li>• Individual is informed of the test results and how they will help develop an appropriate treatment plan.</li> <li>• Testing results provide guidance for treatment plan strategies and are incorporated into the initial biopsychosocial evaluation.</li> </ul>
<b>Unit and Rate</b>	Per evaluation; see rate sheet

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Service Interpretive Guideline]