



Probation Service Definition

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS & PROBATION

SERVICE NAME	Psychological Evaluation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile
Category	Evaluation
Setting	Professional office environment, clinic, mental health substance use treatment center, private practice, teleservice or other setting appropriate to the provision of evaluation/assessment services.
Facility License	As required by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Division of Public Health.
Service Description	A Psychological Evaluation consists of a biopsychosocial evaluation and psychological testing. Standardized testing is utilized to assess an individual’s psychological or cognitive functioning. 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.
Service Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A basic biopsychosocial evaluation and written report should be completed and the evaluation report must follow the Probation Reporting Format. The evaluation report will identify the specific psychological tests that were completed and provide the rationale for completing this testing. • The primary focus of a psychological evaluation is 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 any test must be used, except as outlined in Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing™. • The service is inclusive of the administration, scoring, interpretation and report writing. • 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. • Psychological testing may address one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intelligence/achievement; cognitive abilities ○ Personality ○ Aptitudes and attitudes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Other ● 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. ● 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. <p>A Psychological Evaluation will include these areas during the clinical interview and in the narrative report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presenting problem and goals described by client and collateral contacts ● Social history and environmental influences ● Family dynamics, including demographic information, historical information and treatment history ● Mental health history, including symptoms, diagnoses, treatment interventions/outcomes, including psychotherapeutic medication ● Academic, intellectual and vocational history, including IQ, learning disabilities/behavioral disorders, interventions and outcomes ● 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 ● Legal history, including offenses against the client, history and current legal status ● Legal issues, including incarceration, probation, violence to person or property ● Victim issues, including neglect and emotional, verbal, physical or sexual assault or abuse ● Substance use history, including personal use, family history and treatment history ● Personal assets and liabilities, including strengths and current barriers to success ● Collateral information from at least two (2) sources, including unsuccessful attempts to obtain collateral information ● Every attempt should be made to discuss the recommendations and available services with the officer as part of gathering collateral information; early communication and documentation reduces barriers to clients accessing recommended services ● Psychological testing, including rationale for instruments utilized and results/findings ● Summary and analysis of the findings from the interview and testing
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic impression and findings, including amenability to treatment, internal motivation and justification for diagnosis/diagnoses • Recommendations, including identifying the primary/ideal level of care, clinical rationale for the recommended service(s), barriers to the completing recommended interventions/available level of care, client 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 • Services must be trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically appropriate, age and developmentally appropriate and incorporate evidence-based practices when appropriate. <p>Approved Reporting Format: The Psychological Evaluation written report must be provided in the Probation-approved reporting format as detailed on the appropriate evaluation worksheet.</p>
Service Frequency	The biopsychosocial evaluation and psychological testing will be completed as soon as possible after referral. The psychological testing should not need to be completed more than once unless there is a significant change in the individual's symptoms and behaviors.
Length of Service	The interview and psychological testing (administration, scoring, interpretation and report writing) is variable depending on the presentation of the individual. Full evaluation, collateral information, and written narrative summary/evaluation report completed within thirty (30) working days of initial contact with the individual. Court-ordered evaluations must be completed and sent to the probation/problem-solving court staff member within the timeframe set by the Court.
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed Psychologist • Provisionally Licensed Psychologist • 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. • All providers must be trained in trauma-informed care, recovery principles and crisis management
Staff to Client Ratio	1 clinician : 1 client
Hours of Operation	Providers are expected to be flexible in scheduling to accommodate service needs, which may include evening and/or weekend availability.
Service Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological evaluation uses psychological testing to inform behavioral health diagnostic impressions, recommended behavioral health services and treatment plan needs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological testing results provide additional data and information to assist with the development of the treatment plan. • Individual completes all tests administered. • Individual is informed of the test results and how they will help develop an appropriate treatment plan. • Testing results provide guidance for treatment plan strategies and are incorporated into the initial biopsychosocial evaluation.
Unit and Rate	See rate sheet