



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PROBATION

Service Interpretive Guidelines
Psychological Evaluation

SERVICE DEFINITION:

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. 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.

EXPECTATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:

- The probation/problem-solving court staff member is responsible for reviewing all screenings/risk assessments to determine if the client has a need for further evaluation.
- This service will assist in clarifying a client's diagnosis/diagnoses in cases where:
 - A Mental Health Evaluation is not sufficient to determine current diagnoses/treatment recommendations
 - There are conflicting past diagnoses that need to be clarified to assist with current case management
 - The client is not stable in current treatment despite individualized interventions
- The probation/problem-solving court staff member shall work with the client to determine a Registered Service Provider (RSP) to conduct the evaluation.
- The evaluation will include validated psychological testing, a face-to-face clinical interview, review of documentation, use of behavioral rating scales, consultation with collateral sources, and the client's history as it relates to the current symptoms.
- The probation/problem-solving court staff member will communicate with the RSP to provide all collateral information to assist with the completion of the evaluation.
- Probation/problem-solving court staff members will utilize the RSP's clinical recommendations to assist in developing an individualized case management plan.

Referral Questions may include:

- Is the client's I.Q. impeding completion of probation?
- Does the client have multiple conflicting diagnoses that need to be clarified?
- Is the client's mental health impeding completion of probation?