

CUSTODY 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 via a retainer.

CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS

A completed Child Custody Evaluation is billed at a flat base rate based of **\$5,000.00** per party. This base rate covers interviews of up to **five (5)** persons (*adults and/or children*) involved in the case. There is an additional charge of **\$200.00** 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 of **\$200.00** as noted below.

Custody Evaluation	Additional Interview	Standard Hourly Rate for Additional Work
\$10,000.00	\$200.00 per Party	\$200.00

Unless otherwise specifically ordered by the court, fees for services will be split between the parties. Any additional collateral data submitted will not be reviewed until after all associated payment(s) from party(s) have been received. 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 the hourly rate of **\$200.00**. 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 child(ren) not involved in the litigation but living with the child(ren) 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.

I understand that if the Court finds that the primary language of the parties is not English, the Evaluator shall select a licensed or certified Interpreter to assist, with any and all cost(s) associated with the utilization of the interpreter to be paid in accordance with the Order.

Court Appearances:

For any requested appearance, deposition, or participation in any type of settlement conference by the Evaluator, there will be an additional **\$250.00 per hour** fee. I acknowledge by signing this document that failure to provide the fee as specified constitutes release from the requested appearance. Appearances in legal cases require clearing substantial time on our calendar, as well as additional professional preparation time. For any requested appearance, subpoenaed appearance, or telephonic appearance fees are due no later than **seven (7) days prior** to your court date and are **non-refundable**, as we must clear our schedule whether the hearing(s) occurs or not. Please note that if an appearance request is received without a minimum of **seven (7) days' notice**, the appearance fee is due **immediately**, and there will be an **additional \$250.00** express charge.

The Court Appearance Fee is **\$250.00** per hour with a **four (4) hour** minimum (*Half-Day*) equal to **\$1,000.00**, or **\$250.00** per hour with an **eight (8) hour** minimum (*Full-Day*) equal to **\$2,000.00** for either personal appearances or telephonic appearances. Please be advised that if the Court Appearance is in excess of the **four (4) hour** minimum but less than or equal to the an **eight (8) hour** minimum, and is being requested for the same day, Client will be assessed the **eight (8) hour** minimum rate. Appearances in excess of an **eight (8) hour** minimum will be charged a Court Appearance Fee of **\$250.00** per hour per day. Should a Court Appearance request exceed one full-day, the same rates as noted above would apply for each additional full-day and/or half-day requested. Payment is required regardless of whose attorney subpoenas Texas PCS's involvement. **Payment(s) are non-refundable**. As Texas PCS maintains more than one office, and/or your Counselor may be in session with another Client, your attorney will need to either email and/or fax the subpoena or arrange a time for the subpoena to be served. **Please be advised that failure to pay the minimum required fee, as specified, constitutes release from the requested or subpoenaed appearance.**

It should also be noted that relative to any subpoena that requires the (re)production and/or (re)submission of document(s) and/or correspondence related to your case are subject to an additional fee(s) associated with the preparation, production, submission, and/or copying of such requested record(s).

Additionally, any request to (re)produce training, documentation, and/or reference materials related and/or specific to your case, subject to and/or prohibited by copyright law(s), will not be provided, and/or required when applicable. If digital reproduction is prohibited but hard copies are permissible, hard copies (*when applicable*) will be provided regardless of the requested reproduction method (*i.e., photocopy vs. digital*). Furthermore, it is acknowledged that some materials cannot be reproduced due to copyright law.

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 work flow (*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.

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.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature

Printed Name