



Omne Clinic, Inc. Child Custody Evaluation

Purpose

A dispute about child custody can be one of the most devastating family crises. We believe that the parties involved, for the benefit of the child, must explore every avenue to resolve this issue without involving evaluators and/or the court system. When this cannot be accomplished, the child custody evaluation process at Omne Clinic, Inc. will reflect the philosophy of care at the clinic. The child is part of a family system and the entire system needs to be explored and heard. Only then can a final report and recommendation presume to be fair and thorough. An evaluation for child custody disputes includes the following elements:

Contract

Parties involved will sign a contract for the service. This contract specifies the steps involved and the expectations with regard to standard services. Both parties are expected to join for the contract signing in what is called an "organizational meeting." Meeting with everyone sets the tone for common expectations and impartiality.

Standard Services

The principal people involved in the dispute, in most cases a mother and father and their child, will each come in for up to three (3) individual visits. The first visit for the adults will be an individual appointment. If the adult involved has a partner who would live with the child should custody be granted to that parent, the second visit would be with the partner. A third visit may be requested by the evaluator.

The first visit of the child will be an individual appointment unless seeing the child individually would harm her or him emotionally. The evaluator may then request further visits, individual or with one or both of the possible custody holders.

The parties must agree to take the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI). The primary purpose of the MMPI is to screen for emotional disturbance, mood and affect disorders and thought disorder.

The test is administered by computer in an interactive program. It assumes at least a sixth grade level of reading. Individuals with reading deficiencies may ask a friend to accompany them.

Home Visits will be arranged with both parents. The evaluator will visit the homes of the parties involved in the company of the child. The purpose of the home visit is to help the evaluator gain a sense of the environment that the child lives/would live in.

Collateral visits and contacts are at the discretion of the evaluator. The parties may suggest collateral contact, but the evaluator will decide if such contacts are deemed necessary to arrive at conclusions.

Court Testimony

The fee for this evaluation includes time the evaluator may spend in court to give testimony and all consultations with attorneys up to six months after the date of issue of the report. Requested testimonies after six months will be billed at Dr. Smets' customary hourly rate.

A full report of the findings of the evaluation, including recommendations, will be issued at the end of the process. The evaluator will make every effort to issue a full report within 40 days of the signing the initial contract.

Credentials

Principal investigator in the evaluation will be Anton C. Smets, Ph.D., Psy.D. Dr. Smets is a licensed Psychologist and registered by the National Registry of Health Care Providers in Psychology. He specializes in family systems treatment of children and adolescents. Dr. Smets is a Diplomat of the Professional Academy of Custody Evaluators (PACE) and Registered by the National Register of Custody Evaluators.

Fee

The cost for the evaluation is \$2500, all-inclusive, for studies within Eau Claire and surrounding counties. If one or both parties lived outside the surrounding counties, the fee will be \$3000. Please ask the clinic secretary which fee will apply when inquiring about the evaluation. The fee is the same regardless of the number of children involved.

Payment in full is requested at the time of signing of the contract. No partial payment plan or deferred payment will be accepted. Part of this evaluation may be paid by your health insurance. You should discuss this with a Billing Specialist at Omne Clinic, Inc. We will bill your insurance as a courtesy. Any insurance payments we receive will be reimbursed to you promptly.

You can contact Ms. Kathy Ulness, the Omne Clinic, Inc. Custody Evaluation Liaison, with questions at (715) 832-5454.

Thank you very much for your interest.