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## Joseph F. Kulas, Ph.D., ABPP Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist

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## Greetings!

I hope this letter finds you well. I am pleased that you have chosen to have your child's neuropsychological evaluation with me. Prior to the evaluation I would like to provide you information concerning the policies of my office.

Your child's evaluation will take place over the course of one session, typically from 8:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. The length of the evaluation depends on the questions that are asked by the referral sources (parents, school agency, physician), a child's ability to participate with assessment procedures, compliance within the testing, and the number of breaks. A lunch break will be taken during the course of the day and other breaks as deemed necessary by the evaluator.

As a part of the evaluation, a feedback conference will be held to discuss the results of the evaluation. Typically, this occurs 3-4 weeks following the evaluation. Parents are encouraged to invite any individuals whom they feel would benefit from the information to the feedback. If the Local Educational Agency (LEA; the school district) is paying for the evaluation they will be invited as a matter of course. Participation in a Planning and Placement Team Meeting (PPT) is not typically included in the evaluation fee. Further, the feedback conference is not to be considered a PPT meeting, as no decisions should be made at that point.

All information provided in the evaluation is kept in accordance HIPPA guidelines. More specifically for those not aware of those guidelines, the information contained within the evaluation is only released to those authorized parties by parents of children under the age of 14. Although parent's permission to release privileged information will be obtained from children aged 14-17, the child's permission will also be obtained from the child to release sensitive information across a number of areas, including alcohol use, drug use, sexual activity, or other areas. This is done in accordance with Connecticut State Statutes. Any individual who is aged 18 or older is considered an adult under HIPPA and is the only individual who can provide release for that information, except in the case of court determined guardian or conservator. Please be aware that there are limits to confidentiality and my office will release information to protect the safety and well being of individuals affected by that information, particularly in the instances of suicidal/homicidal ideation or in the presence of abuse of a child. Additionally, my office will comply with legally binding court orders.

Please be aware that if the evaluation is being funded by the LEA, the information contained in the evaluation is made available to the LEA as a matter of course as is required. A written release will be obtained at the time of the evaluation stating this fact. It is my policy to release the information to the LEA and the parents at the same time, typically at the time of the feedback conference. Parents are able to terminate the release at any time prior to provision of the report to the LEA, but

in that case the parent will be responsible for the full cost of the evaluation and that cost will be due prior to dissemination of the report.

For parent funded evaluations, all fees are due at the time of the evaluation. Check and Credit Card (Mastercard/Visa) are acceptable forms of payment. If the funding agency is an LEA, then a letter documenting their responsibility for the evaluation will suffice with payment expected on completion of the evaluation. My current fee for a neuropsychological evaluation ranges from \$3500 - \$4500.

The evaluation will be conducted by myself, and I will generate the report and interpret all information contained within the evaluation. Much of the interview will be conducted with the child's parent, guardian, or primary caregiver(s). However, I will also directly interview the child to the extent that developmental considerations allow. I will also potentially contact school personnel as desired or as required by the evaluation. The evaluation will more likely than not include questionnaires for both the parents/guardians and school personnel. An evaluation of the child's cognitive abilities will also likely be a part of the evaluation. These measures will be administered by my technician. My technician has a master's degree in psychology from an accredited university and is properly trained in administering the required materials. My technician is supervised directly by me in her administration of the test materials and each protocol is checked for accuracy. This is done according to the guidelines provided by the National Academy of Neuropsychology for technician-based assessments and in accordance with empirical research that provides evidence that assessments using technicians to administer the test materials and those where the psychologist administers the test materials. My technician is not involved in the interpretation of the information from those measures, and she involved in the production of the report.

If you have any questions concerning these policies, please feel free to contact me prior to the evaluation or at the time of the evaluation itself. I look forward to assisting in the improvement in your child's academic and day-to-day functioning.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Kulas, Ph.D., ABPP

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