



Sharon Blott
Psychological Services

INFORMED CONSENT FOR ASSESSMENT SERVICES

I _____ consent to the following assessment for

PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

- **Gifted** Westmount Charter School
Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)
- **Comprehensive** ADHD/Learning Disability/Intellectual Disability
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder**
- **Disability Services** PDD, AISH, Disability Tax Credit, Capacity Assessment

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Sharon Blott and Sarah McEvoy are both registered psychologists in good standing with the College of Alberta Psychologists.

I acknowledge and consent to the following:

ASSESSMENT

- The assessment will involve the administration of standardized assessment measures as discussed in the intake interview. This typically includes a measure of intelligence (WPPSI-IV, WISC-V, WAIS-IV), achievement (WIAT-III), checklists for ADHD and

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executive functioning, as well as online and/or computer measures. The types of assessment measures completed will depend on the nature of the referral. The process of assessment is discussed during the intake meeting. Specialized assessment measures are administered for the assessment of Autism including the ADI-R and ADOS-II.

- Please note that as per College of Alberta Psychologist ethical guidelines, raw scores, and other such reports as produced by Pearson Clinical Assessments cannot be released directly to parents. Instead, all clinical information is interpreted by the psychologist and written into a comprehensive report.

FEES

- Fees are billed in accordance with the current fee schedule as set forth by the Psychologists Association of Alberta. Fees are discussed during the initial consult and intake to ensure that clients are aware of the total cost of assessment. A flat rate is charged for all assessments to ensure transparency in all financial matters. An invoice will be provided for reimbursement. Effective April 1st, 2018, the fee is \$200.00 per hour. Fees are as follows:

Gifted Assessments: \$500.00 initial fee
\$900.00 if gifted (Westmount Charter School)
\$1500.00 if gifted (GATE)

Psychoeducational Assessment: \$2200.00 (LD/ADHD)

Cognitive Assessment for PDD Funding: \$1000

Capacity Assessment: \$700.00

Autism Spectrum Disorder: \$3000

- *A 30-minute fee (\$100.00) is charged for no-show or late cancellation appointments.*

PAYMENT

- The client and/or parents are responsible for fulfilling their financial obligation for the assessment. Payment is billed at the end of each session with an invoice provided for insurance reimbursement. The final balance owing is due at the last appointment in which a report is presented to the parents and/or client. All questions about billing should be directed to Sharon Blott.
- Depending on your insurance provider, direct billing is also offered. Clients are required to sign a Release of Information as compiled by Telus Health, the online administrator of the direct billing program. Typically, to have services billed directly, your name, date of birth, and policy number will need to be released. Clients are provided with a copy of all claims made directly to their policy. At present, the only insurance companies allowing direct billing are Great West Life and Blue Cross. A predetermination of reimbursement is completed by the office manager once billing information is provided and should fees not be completed covered by insurance, a credit card will be billed for the additional amount.
- Invoices not paid within 30 days will unfortunately have to be sent to a collection agency.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Client privacy and confidentiality is the cornerstone of our business. This ensures a good working relationship between the psychologist and client. To that end:

- All information gathered in the course of the assessment is considered confidential and as such, results of the assessment are only shared with the client and/or parents of minor children.
- Parents are welcome to share the results of the assessment with their child's teacher and/or physician. However, should they require the psychologist to forward the completed report, a written Release of Information will need to be signed by the client and/or parents.
- Reports sent to a pediatrician's office are done so electronically over Bright Squid, a medical software system. This program ensures privacy, and all files are encrypted with a password before sending.
- All files are stored and maintained in a locked filing cabinet at all time as per the College of Alberta Psychologist's standards of practice. Archived files are kept securely for a period of 10 years after completion of assessment and for minor children, two years past the age of majority.
- Files transported out of the office for report writing purposes are kept in a secure file folder and briefcase, and are kept in a locked filing cabinet until returned.
- Please note that all information gathered during the course of the interview will be included in the background information section of the report. Information gathered will be specific to the referral question, with irrelevant information being excluded. It is important to note that information provided by collateral contacts (i.e. family members, teachers, physicians) will be included in the report, unless otherwise requested.

I understand that all information will be kept in strict confidence, with the following exceptions:

- The appropriate authorities must be informed if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a client or other person will be harmed.
- The appropriate authorities must be informed if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a minor is in need of child protective services.
- If the file is subpoenaed, the psychologist is obligated by law to release it.

CONSENT

- Should parents share joint custody arrangements, consent from both parents is required before assessment can proceed. This is a legal requirement of our profession. Should parents wish to have a report amended, both parents must provide consent.
- Should the client and/or parents of minor children wish to withdraw from the assessment, they may do so at any time in writing, with no penalty incurred.

- This consent form is valid for one year should additional services be required.

RISKS AND LIMITATIONS

- Information gathered during the course of assessment, such as observations or test results, may indicate the presence of additional difficulties that were unanticipated by the client and/or parents at the time of referral. This may cause some distress. Client concerns about this new information will be discussed.
- In the case of gifted assessments, parents may discover that their child is not gifted, and that other educational placements will need to be considered. Gifted assessments are not meant to diagnose learning disabilities, ADHD, or autism; however, should information come to light during the assessment that would suggest the likelihood of such disorders, parents will be informed, and given the option of electing to have a more comprehensive assessment of their child completed.

BENEFITS

- Given that this is a private assessment, parents own the report. This implies that they can choose to share it with their child's school or physician at their discretion.
- Once a diagnosis is provided, a copy of the report can be shared with various service providers in order to obtain specialized services. These services can include school support (IPP), funding support (FSCD, Disability Tax Credit), and/or other specialized services as recommended.
- Sharon Blott has over 18 years' experience as a registered psychologist. Her work is well recognized as being of high quality, and reports are comprehensive and helpful for clients.
- Flat rates are offered for all assessment services to ensure transparency in all financial matters. In cases when assessments are not as lengthy as expected, a lower rate may be offered.

COMMUNICATION

- Clients are able to contact Sharon Blott Psychological Services by phone/text (403-612-3396) or email at shblott@telus.net. Calls, texts, and/or emails received after 6:00 pm are returned the next business day.
- An electronic copy of a report can be sent to the client when requested. Reports are encrypted with a password to ensure confidentiality. This password is sent in a separate email.
- Intake and feedback appointments can be completed over Zoom if preferred.

CLIENT SATISFACTION

Sharon Blott Psychological Services prides itself on having established and maintained an excellent reputation in the community for over 18 years. As such:

- Client satisfaction is of utmost priority. Should clients be dissatisfied with the services provided, every effort is undertaken to ensure that concerns are addressed in a timely and professional manner. All work completed is overseen by the College of Alberta Psychologists (CAP), the licensing and regulatory body for psychologists in Calgary.
- All staff are in good standing with the College of Alberta Psychologists. We maintain our competency by regular attendance at workshops, reading current research, and through discussions with colleagues about critical issues in the profession.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

By attending in-person sessions, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus. This risk may increase if you have travelled by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service.

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help everyone stay safer from exposure, sickness, and possible death. Please initial each to ensure that you understand and agree to these actions:

- You will only keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom-free _____
- You agree to cancel your appointment should you experience symptoms. If you wish to cancel, the normal cancellation fee will be waived _____
- Please adhere to the safe distancing precautions that have been set up in the waiting area _____
- If a resident of your home tests positive or shows signs of the infection, you agree to advise and reschedule your appointment _____

Our Responsibility to You

- Office seating in the waiting area and office has been arranged for appropriate physical distancing
- Hand sanitizer is available in office for your use as are masks, should you decide to wear one.
- Appointments are scheduled at specific intervals to minimize the number of people in the waiting area
- The office is sanitized between each appointment
- The Business Centre has increased their sanitization practices.

Should there be a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus, the above precautions could change as per municipal, provincial, or federal health guidelines. If this occurs, we will discuss any necessary changes.

Date: _____

Parent/Client Signature: _____

Clinician Signature: _____