



Counselling | Mediation | Supervision

| STATUTORY ASSESSMENT Ts&Cs

16 Rose Avenue, Kirstenhof Cape Town 7945

www.theconnectgroup.co.za

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SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENT TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. WHAT IS A SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENT?

Social Work Assessments are neutral, third party psycho-therapeutic investigations through which an recommendations about the care & best interests of the applicant/child concerned are made. Social workers or other mental health practitioners are qualified to conduct Assessments either voluntarily, with consent from all parties concerned or by order of the court. Assessments are thorough reports considering the views, experiences, and recommendations of all parties concerned including but not limited to the parents, siblings, extended family, educators and peers. The collective account of all key informants, combined with the expressed wishes of the applicant/child, and the theoretical and legal knowledge of the social worker, allow for the practitioner to draw conclusions and make recommendations for a ruling that represents the Best Interests of all parties involved. Where children are concerned, the assessment refers to The Children's Act No 38 of 2005 and thus, an acceptable child related Assessment is structured according to this Act.

2. THE PROCESS

Assessments consist of a subjective variation of the following:

- The Initial Consult with the Applicant
- Mediation Sessions between the opposing parties
- Play Therapy Assessment with the Child Concerned
- Site Visits/ Home Visits
- Interview with Key Informants (including but not limited to, siblings, extended family, child educators, family friends, employers etc.)
- Zoom or Telephonic Consult with Legal Representatives
- Follow-Up phone-calls and Collateral Information Collection (including access to financial records).
- Statutory Report
- Feedback Session with the required parties.
- Therapeutic Support Mechanisms for all parties concerned

3. FINANCES

Assessments are a timeous procedure which require the unique and particular investigative and discerning skillset of a social worker (or other suitably qualified practitioner). A thorough and professional assessment should be considered an investment in one's future as the results influence the final statutory ruling.

Assessment costs vary between R18 500 and R40 000 depending on the comprehensiveness and timeline of the assessment. A 50% deposit is due upfront, whilst the balance is due upon completion of the report. Note that the report is not sent to any parties until such a time as the balance has been financed. Court Appearances are charged additionally at R1250 an hour.



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4. DISCLAIMER

Upon contracting The Connect Group to complete a Assessment on your behalf, the following Terms & Conditions are noted and agreed upon:

- Assessment timelines cannot be guaranteed however we endeavour to complete assessments in 6-8 weeks from the point of contract.
- The Assessment is developed with the Best Interests of the child/applicant in mind at all times.
- The insight of an additional practitioner may be requested as a means of providing a second opinion on cases. This is particularly relevant where specialist areas or child related, play matters are concerned.
- Assessments privately requested should still be reported to The Department of Social Development or made via Application of Court.
- The Social Worker completing the assessment acts in a clinical and objective manner at all time. No bias toward any parties will occur.
- It is advisable that an Assessment is court ordered. In the absence of a court order, Assessments should be consented to by all parties concerned.
- It is worth noting that as evidence in court, assessments may be rejected and considered biased toward the assessment financier should they not be ordered by the court.
- Assessments require the cooperation of all parties to ensure the most objective and fairly represented report. Lack of cooperation only serves to negatively represent the party in question in the final report.
- Court ordered assessments override individual or parental consent for assessments. As such parental parties may not deny the social worker access to the child for assessment purposes.
- Where possible mediation is always recommended as a first step in the Assessment Process. An amicable result achieved through mediation will be less time consuming, costly and tumultuous for all parties involved. Mediation serves the best interests of all parties concerned.
- Failure to finance the remaining Assessment balance will result in the withholding of the final Assessment Report.
- The resultant report is the objective opinion of the appointed Social Worker post investigation.
- Once released, the report is not editable. The report is submitted as evidence and may influence the outcome of the internal proceedings and external statutory proceedings, though it is not the only contribution to the outcome.
- The Social Worker does not make the final ruling, the Department of Social Development's investigative team or Court of Law makes the final ruling.
- The Social Worker may not see any parties for therapeutic intervention until after the court cases completion.

CLIENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PRACTITIONER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____





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