

**Renewal Counseling Center
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ORIENTATION and CONSENT FOR ADOPTION EVALUATIONS

Dr. Bridget Rivera will be the only psychologist involved in your evaluation through our office. This form provides information in which we will try to cover issues which come up frequently in adoption evaluations. Please take the time to read through it and then feel free to ask questions during your initial appointment.

Purpose, Process, and Limitations of the Evaluation

1. It is important that you understand in advance that this is an independent evaluation. There is a possibility that Dr. Rivera's impressions may be unfavorable to your position. In other words, Dr. Rivera will have no bearing on the decision of the adoption agency and its affiliations. Dr. Rivera will be making recommendations consistent with the clinical interview, document review and psychological testing findings.
2. The evaluation itself will consist of interviews and psychological testing. The psychological testing allows Dr. Rivera to collect a wide range of data and organize the issues and/or possible concerns. At the end of the evaluation, a report and recommendation will be provided to the appropriate parties depending on your case.
3. Dr. Rivera recognizes that her impressions are very important to you. However, please do not ask her to give you an opinion until she had had an opportunity to hear all information, review the psychological test results, and fully review the file/case. At that time, feedback will be given either verbally and/or in written form.

Confidentiality Issues

As Dr. Rivera begins the evaluation you will be asked to sign "Release of Information" forms. This allows Dr. Rivera to discuss this situation/case with anyone who she thinks would be helpful in coming to a recommendation. This also allows Dr. Rivera to talk to your adoption agency and submit reports to your adoption country (if required in your case). The laws of confidentiality might otherwise prevent her from doing so. In addition, due to the notarized/apostille process the documents that are required by the adoption agency and country may be seen by officials who authorize the required documents (i.e., county clerk, office of the secretary of state, and notary).

Evaluation Costs

Dr. Rivera will review the fee agreement during the initial interview. In general, pre-adoption evaluations range from \$700 to \$2,700 depending upon the requirements of your case.

The Evaluation Process

The following describes the steps and the purposes of the procedures that are involved in this evaluation process. The description is being given so that you know what to expect as you decide to have an evaluation done and as you prepare for and go through this evaluation. This evaluation will follow a structured pattern to maximize the fairness and the objectivity of the report. However, Dr. Rivera may make changes in the process in a case by case basis due to the needs of each case.

1. At your initial appointment, you should bring any written documents that you might think would be relevant to your case. (It is very rare that additional background documents are needed in an adoption evaluation.) Please highlight the segments of the documents that you think are noteworthy.
2. In the first part of your clinical interview you and Dr. Rivera will review the consent for evaluation form, answer any questions you have, and have you sign that document. Also, if your specific country requires completion of specific paperwork, this will be when those documents will be reviewed. For example, certain eastern European countries have specific forms to be completed by the evaluator. Likewise, releases of information will be signed so that the relevant records may be obtained and so that third-party individuals can be contacted who may be able to help with the evaluation.
3. Dr. Rivera will conduct a detailed clinical interview with you and your spouse (if you are married). The interviews will have special focus on mental health issues and your readiness for adoption.
4. After the clinical interview(s), you will be scheduled individual interviews and psychological testing appointments.
5. Following your structured interview and testing, all of the documents and information will be reviewed.
6. A follow-up interview will occur if needed in your case.
7. Changes may occur in the process due to the situation in each case. The evaluator still attempts to complete all the objectives of the evaluation.
8. A feedback session, will be scheduled approximately one month from the initial interview (This is dependent upon collateral information, certification of documents, and scheduling).

DATE

_____/_____
CLIENT SIGNATURE

_____/_____
NAME PRINTED

DATE

EVALUATOR SIGNATURE / Bridget Rivera, Psy.D.