

Catherine A. MacLennan, PhD

Licensed Psychologist (WA PY00003197) Clinical and Forensic

Mail: PO Box A, Omak WA 98841

Physical: 127 Ash St. N., Omak WA 98841

Phone: 509 826-5615

Fax: 509 463-4699

Email: cmaclenn@mac.com

CatherineAMacLennanPhD@hushmail.com

**COMPREHENSIVE  
PSYCHOLOGICAL PARENTING EVALUATION**

Forensic psychology is at the interface of psychology and the law. Forensic psychologists work to inform courts, hearings, administrative proceedings including consulting, evaluation, treatment, and all related activities. This includes trials, hearings for administrative, civil, and criminal matters. Forensic psychology refers to all professional practice by any psychologist when applying the scientific, technical, or specialized knowledge of psychology to the law to assist in addressing legal, contractual, and administrative matters.

Dr MacLennan’s hourly rate is \$250 per billable hour (50 minutes calculated to the tenth of an hour, 0.1 = 5 minutes) including all activities, plus any expenses incurred. Full payment is required before beginning a forensic evaluation or testimony. Ethical regulations require pre-payment in forensic work to assure objectivity as well as the appearance of objectivity. My time must be paid in advance to help assure that my opinion is unbiased and fair.

Dr MacLennan will estimate in advance the expected amount of time and expense required, and that must be paid before any forensic work begins (*Phase I*). If further work is requested beyond Phase I, the initial agreed upon evaluation (*Phase II*), an additional retainer must be paid in advance, and upon completion, actual expenditure is calculated and funds are reconciled.

*Phase I.* Payment for Phase 1 is required in full in advance for the full evaluation. Submission of the written report, or the attorney saying not to complete a report, completes Phase I.

*Phase II.* Phase II is triggered if you or any other party requests, or judge orders, my involvement after completion of Phase I. An additional advance retainer is required, based on \$250 per billable hour for all activities. Also note if you become involved in legal proceedings that require my participation in the future, you are expected to pay for all professional time, even if I am called to testify by another party.

Cancellations. If you cancel with less than 24 hour notice (or if you no show) for any appointment, you will have to pay an additional ½ of the cost of the time reserved for you in that day, in addition to what you have prepaid.

This means for example, you would pay an additional \$1,000.00 for an evaluation that would be expected to last 8 hours.

**Professional fees for Forensic Services** \$250 per billable hour for all services, plus expenses.

- \$1,500 to \$5,000 Basic psychological evaluation with low to moderate complexity
- \$5,000 to \$9,000 More complex evaluations
- \$10,000 plus Specialized and more comprehensive evaluations; for evaluations involving high conflict parent custody, plus additional charge for each child and each significant other

Informed Consent & Fee Agreement Contract  
Comprehensive Psychological Parenting Evaluation

If another party is involved (e.g. custody), both must sign the Contract Consenting to Services, releasing the written record, and agreeing to payment.

Note regardless of who pays for a forensic evaluation, the service provided is objective and attempts to be fair with full commitment to the goals of accuracy, objectivity, fairness, and independence. Every attempt is made for these services to be provided in consideration of the Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists in addition to the APA guidelines.

*Rates for forensic services:* \$250.00 per billable hour for all professional time including phone contacts, email, report writing, administrating and interpreting tests, collateral contacts, research, testifying and waiting to testify, travel, and miscellaneous. Additional charges include, but are not limited to, all actual costs incurred for tests, photocopies, travel costs (mileage, meals, motel), and etc.

*Phase I:* Advance payment is required in full before the evaluation begins. Ends after the evaluation is completed and written report provided to the designated party or to the court when there is a court order.

*Phase II:* If additional time is requested (e.g., phone calls, email, deposition, or testimony) beyond the written report, Phase II begins. This will involve a second agreement and additional advance payment, in form of retainer, with amount due based on estimated hours. Every hour or portion thereof will be billed at \$250.00 per billable hour.

Please consult with your attorney regarding this contract and any questions you may have.

## **Agreement for Comprehensive Parenting Evaluation**

Common questions and problems that come up in the psychological parenting evaluations are discussed below. Please read this agreement carefully and talk about it with your lawyer. Ask your lawyer about anything you don't understand. You will be asked to provide this signed agreement before your first meeting with Dr MacLennan.

**What is the Evaluation For?** This evaluation is for legal purposes. Your children are our only clients. You are here because the judge and your lawyer have told you to come. The evaluator's job is to make suggestions to the judge about what is best for your children. Your job is to let the evaluator know your point of view. It can be a very hard and painful job to make suggestions about you and your children. The evaluator's job is to look at how you get along and work together with your children and the other parent. You may not like some of the suggestions the evaluator makes to the judge because the results of the evaluation may not support your views about this court case.

**What will happen?** Before you see the evaluator, you will fill out a long form. This is so the evaluator can find out more about you. Part of the evaluation is a personality test and an interview. When you talk with the evaluator you can stop and not answer a question or questions. You can ask to take a break from the meeting. Next, the evaluator will watch each parent with his or her child or children. Then, the evaluator will talk with people you know, teachers, counselors, doctors and your family. The evaluator decides whom to talk to based on the issues in your case and what kind of information they can provide. Your evaluator may not contact your friends or family. If you want your friends or family to provide information to your evaluator, talk with your attorney about how to have them provide a written declaration. At the end of the evaluation, the evaluator will talk with you about the evaluation results. Throughout the process, your evaluator will provide you with the opportunity to correct errors or provide information that responds to the findings about you.

**Will you talk with my child (children)?** Because children often feel as if they are in the middle of custody disagreements, and this can be quite burdensome to them, we generally do not interview children under the age of 13. If you have a child (children) over the age of 13, your evaluator will determine whether to interview them based on the developmental level and needs of your child(ren).

**What does the Evaluator do?** The evaluator will take notes as he/she interviews you and watches you with your children.

**Will the Evaluator Provide Counseling to my children and me?** Dr MacLennan will provide a parenting evaluation and provide a report of the results to your attorney. The report may recommend counseling services for you and your child (children). The evaluator cannot provide the counseling services in cases where they have provided a parenting evaluation, but can provide you a list of referrals to individuals that can provide the counseling services.

**Case Records** You agree that none of the case records (tests, interview notes, observations notes, and notes from others) will be given to either parent (party) until the evaluation is finished. Then, the lawyers of the parents (parties) may look through and

Informed Consent & Fee Agreement Contract  
Comprehensive Psychological Parenting Evaluation

ask for copies of these records. The actual test materials, though, can only be given to another psychologist. Copying fees for all case records are \$1.50 per page for the first 30 pages and \$1.00 per page after that. You also agree to pay \$30 per hour for copying costs.

**Will I get the report?** At the end of the evaluation, your lawyer will be given a written report with recommendations.

**Can I know what the evaluator is going to say?** We know the evaluator's findings and opinions are important to you, but we cannot give you any information until we have listened to all sides. We must look at the tests, the information from both parents, and talk with other people connected to your family. You will get to hear and respond to the results of the evaluation about you before the report is finished. Then, both lawyers receive the report.

**Legal facts** The evaluator's statements, report, and other actions might harm your court case. We must look at what is best for your child(ren), over any adult's wishes. When you start this evaluation you give up your right for confidentiality and release us from any and all legal responsibility from harm that might result from talking about your case with people who know your family or you.

**What is the cost?** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ must be paid in advance for Phase I, the evaluation portion of this process before any appointments are scheduled. Each parent's share of this is based on judge's order or agreement with attorneys.

This charge for the evaluation includes:

- finding out facts about each parent's concerns
- reviewing records
- interviews
- observing you with your children
- making phone calls to people who know your family and you
- scoring and interpreting tests
- writing the report
- talking with the lawyers

You pay this amount in full before the evaluation begins, so that the evaluator cannot be blamed for making decisions because you have paid or not paid your bill. Paying the bill before the evaluation starts is best for everyone.

**Additional Costs for Going to Court** If there is any additional contact required after submitting the report, such as record reviews, answering questions asked by your lawyer or going to court as a witness, Phase II is initiated. Fees are \$250.00 per professional hour for all time involved and an advance retainer will be paid based on estimated expenses including all travel time plus expenses, attorney contacts, and waiting for the judge. The added cost changes with the number and difficulties of the problems, the number of children involved, and the amount of lawyer contact and time with the court. Payment of this advance retainer is required before the evaluator does any additional work beyond the report previously discussed.

Please make sure you understand what you have to do during the evaluation and what the evaluator has to do.

Informed Consent & Fee Agreement Contract  
 Comprehensive Psychological Parenting Evaluation

**Specific services you and the court have requested (okay to attach separate page):**

*Dr MacLennan does parenting evaluations based on the Parent Education Training Program (PETP) model that was developed by G Andrew Benjamin JD, PhD and has since been supported by research.*

*For more information about PETP see <https://depts.washington.edu/petp/coparent.html>.*

*The amount of time for Phase I will be estimated based on the complexity, the number of children, number of additional parties, and how long the process has taken to date.*

*Phase I is estimated to require 40 professional hours at \$250 per hour = \$10,000.00, and this (plus estimated travel expenses) must be paid in full in advance of scheduling any appointments. This evaluation is very thorough and so is expensive.*

Phase I Activity at \$250 per hour	Hours	Expense
Emails, phone calls, scheduling		
Clinical and forensic interview and testing (two parents, each 8 hours)		
Parent child observations x 2 (each 2 hours)		
Score and interpret tests		
Review records		
Collateral contacts		
Finish written report and submit to attorneys		
Meet with attorneys and discuss findings		
Phase I professional services		
Travel expenses from office @125 per hour plus expenses if Dr MacLennan travels for this evaluation.		
Estimate for Phase 1 travel		

1. Party (Evaluee) name(s): _____ DOB: _____  Contact Information (Address, phone, email) _____ _____ Attorney name and contact _____
---

2. Party (Evaluee) name(s): _____ DOB: _____  Contact Information (Address, phone, email) _____ _____ Attorney name and contact _____
---

**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN EVALUATION**

**Your signature(s) below indicates that you have read and understand the information in this document and that you agree to abide by its terms during our professional relationship.**

**You agree to pay your share for services provided. The amount each parent pays will be decided by the court.**

**Please discuss with your attorney.**

1. Party (Evaluee) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

2. Party (Evaluee) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Remit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00**

**MacLennan & Peirson Psychological Services  
PO Box A  
Omak WA 98841  
EIN 91-1663658**