

## **UPDATE ON FORENSIC EVALUATIONS: REOPENING OUR OFFICES**

As professionals committed to assisting families and the Court, we thank you for your thoughtful consideration of and kind response to our May 15, 2020 paper regarding Forensic Family Court Evaluations during the COVID-19 pandemic. In our attempt to provide thorough, valid, reliable, and timely evaluations, we remain vigilant in offering opinions that will not only meet the rigors of the legal system but also give primary place to the best interest of children.

Consistent with our own professional standards, the challenging and evolving COVID-19 crisis, the State's phased opening plan, and CDC guidance, we are implementing procedures to reopen our office in a manner promoting valid and reliable assessments, employing best practices, and attending to the concerns of clients and their children.

We are:

- Reaching out to parents and attorneys to inform them that we are resuming in-person interviews.
- Reopening our offices and implementing extensive health precautions, which will promote interactions which are both safe and comfortable.
- Explaining to the parents our new office procedures and requirements to ensure that the meetings are as safe as possible.
- Whenever possible, scheduling home visits and/or child observations at a time when the weather will likely accommodate comfortable and secure outdoor interactions.

Again, we express our gratitude for your understanding and patience. Like you, we are committed to assisting families in a responsible manner while adhering to professional standards.

June 15, 2020

Respectfully,

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