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INFORMED CONSENT

Welcome to New England Diagnostic and Learning Center (NELDC). This document contains important information about our professional services and policies. Please read it carefully and feel free to ask questions. When you sign this document, it will represent an agreement to the terms below between you and your examiner or between your child and his/her examiner.

EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS

The purpose of an educational evaluation is to obtain a current level of his current academic strengths and weaknesses as well as a review of past and current academic progress is to determine eligibility for special education services and in planning for student's future educational programming. This may include providing diagnostic clarity, identify the individual's strengths and weaknesses, clarify brain-behavior relationships, and make treatment recommendations. An educational evaluation includes a diagnostic interview with the individual and/or the individual's parent/guardian(s), a comprehensive testing battery, a timely and complete report, and a feedback meeting to discuss the results and recommendations of the evaluation. The educational evaluation is for may include testing that evaluates cognitive abilities, adaptive behavior, academic skills, learning and memory, visual-spatial skills, attention, executive functioning skills, fine motor skills, language, social skills, and psychological functioning, although each testing battery is unique to the individual being evaluated and the questions that need to be clarified. Standardized testing may include, but is not limited to, asking questions about knowledge of certain topics, reading, drawing figures and shapes, listening to recordings, viewing printed material and pictures, and/or manipulating objects or puzzles. The number of hours needed for testing, depends on the speed that the individual works, the age of the individual, and/or the specific testing battery administered. A comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation may include, but is not limited to, review of records, talking to other providers (if given consent), administering psychological tests, scoring tests, and writing the report. The evaluation is completed by a licensed psychologist or educational diagnostitian unless otherwise specified.

Psychoeducational testing can be impacted by a variety of factors, including changes in health status, some types of medication treatment, sensory impairments (e.g., vision problems), lack of motivation, sleep deprivation, and/or attempts to manipulate the test results. It is your responsibility to inform the examiner of any factors that may impact test validity. If at any point during the evaluation the individual does not cooperate with testing, the evaluation may be terminated.

A feedback meeting will be scheduled to review and discuss the evaluation with you. At this time, you are encouraged to bring up any questions, corrections, or concerns you have about the report. If you or your child meets criteria for specific diagnoses, this will be specified in the report. There is no guarantee that current diagnoses will remain the same or be changed following the evaluation. Any discussion about the report should be done at feedback between you and your examiner. Sometimes an examiner is willing to edit or amend the report, but this is only done if the requested changes are clinically, ethically, and legally appropriate. Your examiner can discuss this further with you.

FORSEEABLE RISKS AND BENEFITS

There are no known physical risks associated with an evaluation. Generally, psychological and/or emotional risks are minimal and consist of possible temporary anxiety about performance, frustration, fatigue, and/or discomfort related to the discussion of stressful or emotional topics. A small number of individuals could experience greater emotional distress from becoming aware of limitations that may have been previously unknown to them or having to discuss difficult issues with the examiner. Every effort will be made to minimize these risks (e.g., such as check-ins from the examiner and breaks throughout testing), but if you or your child feels uncomfortable in any way, please notify the examiner right away. While the information obtained from an evaluation will likely be useful for the individual, the individual's parent/guardian(s), and/or the individual's school and/or outpatient providers, there is a chance that you may feel like the information obtained from the educational evaluation is disappointing and/or not what you expected.

In fact, many children who are evaluated find the process fun and enjoy receiving one-on-one attention from an engaging adult for several hours.

CONTACTING YOUR EXAMINER

You may contact your examiner by phone, messaging or email.

Your examiner may not always be immediately available by telephone. If it is not an emergency, you should leave a message for your examiner on his/her voicemail or with the administrative staff. Your examiner will return your call as soon as possible.

MINORS

Parents have the right to review the educational reports for children and adolescents under eighteen years of age. It should be noted that if at any time, the minor is at risk of harming him/herself or others, parents will be notified immediately.

LIMITS TO CONFIDENTIALITY

In general, the privacy of all communication between a client and a therapist is protected by law, and your examiner can only release information about your treatment with your written permission. However, there are a few exceptions. Your examiner is legally obligated to take action to protect others from harm, even if some information about you or your treatment needs to be released. For example, if your examiner believes that a child, elderly person, or disabled person is being abused, they are considered a mandated reporter and are required by law to file a report with the appropriate state agency. If your examiner believes that a client is threatening serious bodily harm to another person, they are required to take protective actions. These actions may include notifying the potential victim, contacting the police, or seeking hospitalization for you. If you threaten to harm yourself, your examiner may be obligated to seek hospitalization for you or to contact family members or others who can help provide protection. Furthermore, in most legal proceedings, you have the right to prevent your examiner from providing any information

If any of these exceptions to confidentiality occur, your examiner will make every effort to discuss it with you before taking action. It is important that you discuss any questions or concerns that you may have about these limitations of confidentiality with your examiner right away.

Please be advised that as part of every evaluation, some questionnaires will be sent via email to you and/or your informants (i.e., teachers, spouses, or others). However, these emails will ONLY be sent to informants whom you consent NELDC to contact and the emails will contain a link to a secure, encrypted database, where the questionnaires can be completed. All databases with client information comply with the standards established in the HIPAA Security Regulations.

Your signature below indicates that you have read the information in this document and agree to abide by its terms during the professional relationship between you and your examiner or you and your child's examiner. You freely agree to participate in this evaluation and understand that you can terminate the evaluation at any time.

Signature of client or legal guardian

Date

Signature of minor (if applicable)

Date

