

An evaluation completed as part of a legal process is very different from an evaluation completed as part of a treatment process.

When a family comes to me for treatment of their child they have a specific concern that they hope I will evaluate and make recommendations for how to make the situation better. They rightly expect that everything they and their child tell me will be held in the strictest of confidence.

A court related evaluation is very different. I am not the treating physician for any member of the family.

My job is to evaluate all members of the family in order to determine what is, in my opinion, in the best interest for the child or children.

Nothing that the parents or children tell me in this process is confidential. All of the information gathered in the evaluation process may be shared with the attorneys and the court.

As the court appointed evaluator, I may make recommendations that the parent(s), the child, and/or the family are in need of treatment. But as the court appointed evaluator I will not provide treatment to any member of the family. Because court related evaluations do not provide medical care for any member of the family, the process is not covered by medical insurance policies.

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