

## SOLUTION FOCUSED FAMILY CENTER



### Interview Offices:

5950 Park Vista Circle, Suite 110  
Fort Worth, TX 76244

4875 Preston Rd, Suite 200  
Frisco, TX 75034

**Telephone:** 817-966-5401

**Fax:** 817-840-5519

[www.solutionfocusedfamilycenter.com](http://www.solutionfocusedfamilycenter.com)  
info@solutionfocusedfamilycenter.com

### Mailing Address:

8553 N. Beach St., Ste 189  
Fort Worth, TX 76244

## CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATION FEES

One of the ways in which evaluators maintain neutrality and ethical practice is by assuring that fee payment is not contingent on a particular recommendation or outcome. As such all evaluation fees are due in advance as a refundable retainer.

### Child custody evaluation:

A completed child custody evaluation is billed at a flat base rate of **\$4,000 per party**. This base rate covers interviews of up to five (5) persons (adults and/or children) involved in the case. There is an additional charge of **\$250.00 per party** for each additional person to be interviewed beyond the first five.

The base rate also covers collection of standard collateral information, review of basic documentation, and completion of a report to the court. It **does not** cover review of depositions, review of Child Protective Services records, or other substantial records review over one hour in length per party. Unless otherwise specified, such additional work is billed in quarter hour increments based on a standard hourly rate of **\$250.00 per hour** as noted below.

| Child Custody Evaluation | Additional Interviews | Standard Hourly Rate for Additional Work |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| \$8,000.00               | \$250.00 per party    | \$250.00                                 |

Child Custody Evaluation Fees

Adapted from Dr. Aaron Robb, Forensic Counseling Services

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Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

1 of 4

Unless otherwise specifically ordered by the court fees for services will be split between the parties. In the event that the case settles or our services are terminated before the completion of the child custody report is filed with the court, a refund will be issued based on the actual time worked on the case. This will be billed at Ms. Harrison's hourly rate of \$250 per hour. Any administrative time prior to the start of interviews Until the time services are terminated will be billed. Please note that refunds will only be processed if there is a remaining balance in the retainer for the case. Should one side fail to provide full payment, issues of reimbursement may have to be addressed in court.

Each of the parties will be responsible for any fees for production of records or other information related to the evaluation. Generally, any adults or any children not involved in the litigation but living with the children in question must be interviewed as a part of the evaluation. Additionally in most cases any long-term boyfriend, girlfriend, or fiancé of either of the parties will be interviewed as well. Who is interviewed and what documents are reviewed are decided solely at the evaluator's discretion.

Unanticipated circumstances may necessitate additional hours of service outside those estimated in the retainer. These include but are not limited to: additional interviews; extensive telephone contact time; additional document review; any and all procedures to assess fresh allegations or issues which were not included in the original retainer estimate; and other case specific factors.

Should costs rise above the retainer estimate the attorneys will be notified and the original retainer will be revised.

#### **Expedited evaluations:**

On certain occasions, we can provide an expedited evaluation for an additional fee of \$1,500 per party. Please have your attorney reach out to confirm this is available. Completion of the expedited evaluation can be achieved within eight (8) weeks following the first interview of one of the parties; however, meeting this deadline is contingent upon the cooperation of both parties. Clients must clear their schedules to be available to attend individual interviews, which may involve 3 to 4 separate sessions, as well as group interviews with individuals living in the home, interviews with the children, and home visits. Clients must accept the appointment times offered by the evaluator and should make a reasonable effort to accommodate the expedited timeline. While it's understandable that personal scheduling conflicts, such as work commitments, may arise, clients are expected to prioritize making themselves available for the evaluation process. Flexibility is appreciated to ensure we can meet the deadlines for expedited evaluations.

While the evaluation is expedited, there will be no shortcuts in gathering detailed information or making thorough recommendations. Delays may occur due to factors such as notifications from Child Protective Services regarding a current open case with the family or the need to wait for additional records from past open cases. Clients must also be willing to reach out to providers who may stall in providing requested documentation, and they may need to advocate for the timely release of these documents.

If a client pays for an expedited evaluation but is nonresponsive, fails to attend scheduled appointments, has no-shows, or is uncooperative in scheduling timely meetings, does not return phone calls in a timely manner, does not sign release of information as needed, does not assist in obtaining documentation from providers, or provides additional documentation to be reviewed such as depositions, review of Child Protective Service records, or other substantial records not included in the base rate or requiring extensive extra time, there will be no refund if the evaluation takes longer than eight (8) weeks.

**Court Appearances Fees:**

If Mindy Harrison, LCSW-S receives a subpoena, the requesting lawyer must contact our office to arrange a time for the subpoena to be served. The fee for any requested appearance, including subpoenas, settlement conferences, or dispositions, is \$250 per hour, with a minimum charge of \$1,000 for four (4) hours, payable upon receipt of the subpoena. A retainer of \$2,000 is required for a full day (8 hours), and a \$1,000 retainer is required for a half-day (4 hours), both payable in full upon receipt of the subpoena.

We require a minimum of 7 working days' notice to accommodate any schedule changes for our other clients. Legal cases necessitate significant time to be cleared from our calendar, along with additional professional preparation for any requested appearance, including subpoenaed or telephonic appearances. Fees are due no later than 7 days prior to the court date and are nonrefundable, as we must clear our schedule regardless of whether the hearing occurs.

Please note that if an appearance request is received with less than 7 days' notice, the appearance fee is due immediately, along with an express charge of \$350. Additional fees for documentation preparation may also apply, as outlined in the therapist advisement form. Any additional time spent by our Evaluator in case preparation, travel, and witness time will be billed at an hourly rate of \$250.

Clients are responsible for any attorney fees and costs incurred by Solution Focused Family Center and Mindy Harrison, LCSW-S, due to legal actions, such as filing a Motion to Quash. If Mindy Harrison, LCSW-S is requested to appear in court by you or another party, you will be billed for all professional time, including preparation and transportation costs, given the complexity of legal proceedings. Failure to provide the specified fees constitutes a release from the requested appearance.

**Travel Fees:**

If Mindy Harrison, LCSW-S is required to travel outside of Tarrant County and its contiguous counties (Collin, Denton, Dallas, Parker County) to testify, an additional travel fee will apply. This fee structure is as follows:

- Commute of up to 2 hours: \$500
- Commute of up to 4 hours: \$1,000
- Commute of up to 6 hours: \$1,500
- Commute of up to 8 hours: \$2,000

These fees cover travel time to and from the court hearing or deposition for out of county meetings or hearings. For evaluations requiring airline or overnight travel I understand that fees are charged for travel time and travel expenses. Such travel time is logged as any time spent between originating airport and hotel, and is charged as noted above. Travel expenses include the full expense of the airfare, additional travel retainer will be calculated based on expected travel time and expenses and is due before any travel arrangements will be made. Additional costs for travel-related expenses, such as airfare, lodging, parking, meals, and transportation, will also apply.

An invoice will be sent to the requesting party, and payment is due upon receipt. Please be advised that failure to pay the minimum required fees as specified will constitute a release from the requested or subpoenaed appearance.

**Unanticipated costs:** I understand and acknowledge that unanticipated circumstances may necessitate additional hours of service outside those estimated in the retainer. These include but are not limited to: additional interviews; extensive telephone contact time; additional document review; any and all procedures to assess fresh allegations or issues which were not included in the original retainer estimate; and other case specific factors. Should costs rise above the retainer estimate I understand the Evaluator will notify my attorney and the original retainer will be revised.

**Do not sign this form unless you have read and understood it.**

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

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Signature

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Printed Name