

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS **ABOUT THE DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC PROCESS**

- **What is the Diagnostic Clinic?** The Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court “Diagnostic Clinic” performs court-ordered evaluations for youth and/or families who have cases pending regarding delinquency/unruly, custody/visitation, and neglect/abuse/dependency matters.
- **Why are psychological evaluations done?** The main purpose of an evaluation is to provide the Juvenile Court and/or the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) with information to make recommendations regarding the person(s) evaluated.
- **Who can make a referral to the Diagnostic Clinic?** In juvenile cases (delinquency/unruly or neglect/abuse/dependency), clients are typically referred by Juvenile Court personnel and DCFS workers. In family-related cases (custody/visitation), referrals are made by the judge/magistrate, attorney, or social worker.
- **Who can be referred?** Children and/or adults involved in a particular case may be referred for an evaluation.
- **What if a protection order is in place?** If there is a civil, temporary, or permanent order naming you and any other party in your custody/visitation case, please let us know in advance. That way, we can do our best to reduce contact during your evaluation with us.
- **How long does the evaluation take and what will I have to do?** Depending on the case, a psychological evaluation may take up to four (4) hours per person, sometimes longer.

Evaluations commonly consist of the following parts:
 - a) a clinical interview during which a clinician asks questions about past history and current situation;
 - b) psychological testing in paper-and-pencil or interactive format;
 - c) in some cases, an interactional session where parents/guardians/interested parties and children are observed by the clinician during a separate appointment.
- **Who will conduct the evaluation?** The evaluation will be assigned to a mental health clinician.
- **Who receives the results of an evaluation?** Typically, an evaluation report is sent to the judge or magistrate who ordered it as well as any involved social worker, probation officer, or guardian ad litem.
- **Where do I park?** Parking is \$2.00 cash for the lot across the street from the Juvenile Court at the corner of East 93rd Street and Quincy Avenue. You collect a ticket when you enter the lot, pay at a machine inside the front doors of the Juvenile Court, and, use the paid ticket to exit the lot where you entered. We are not able to validate parking tickets, nor do we provide bus passes.
- **Are there places to eat?** There is a cafeteria on the second floor of the Juvenile Court. Hours are from 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday.