

Psychological Evaluations

- ★ Psychological evaluations are intended to provide a structured, organized, and succinct description of current psychological functioning.
- ★ Psychological evaluations include cognitive abilities and emotional experience. Psychological evaluation offers insight as to the severity of a particular disturbance and of the capacity for adequate functioning.
- ★ Psychological evaluations are a formal and structured way of gathering objective information about a person
- ★ Psychological evaluation may be used to confirm or modify the impressions formed by referring therapists.
- ★ A comprehensive evaluation can identify:
 - needs in therapy
 - highlight issues that may come up in treatment
 - recommend particular forms of intervention
 - offer guidance about potential outcomes of treatment
- ★ A comprehensive psychological evaluation begins with a clinical interview, and then includes any number of psychological tests depending on the nature of the questions posed about the client.
- ★ Testing generally takes several hours to complete and usually requires separate appointments.
- ★ Psychological tests can include:
 - assessments of personality styles
 - tests of emotional well-being
 - intellectual (or IQ) tests
 - tests of academic achievement
 - tests for possible neurological damage
 - tests for specific psychological disturbances and their severity
- ★ Psychological evaluations may also include:
 - interviews with significant others (such as caregivers, spouses, or social worker)
 - review of past records and relevant documents.