



## Assessment

Psychological assessment is a process of evaluating one's cognitive abilities, behaviours, mood, skills, speech, and personal characteristics through observation, interview and by administering psychological tests. It helps psychologists with diagnosis and treatment plans. It is important for psychologists providing assessments to be aware of the ethical guidelines in different settings. The most frequent ethical issues faced by psychologists working in school settings is the process of parental consent and confidentiality. Psychologists who work in forensic settings need to be mindful of their roles as an expert witness, competence, informed consent, confidentiality, multiple relationships and other related issues.

- Who is your client?
- Can opinions from a third party or about a third party be included in the assessment?
- Am I aware of any bias/es that might influence the assessment or the report? (CPA Code of Ethics, III.1-III.12)
- Do I have appropriate training and competency to carry out an assessment? (CPA Code of Ethics, II.6-II.12)

### References:

Canadian Psychological Association (2017). Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists (Fourth Edition). Retrieved from [https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Ethics/CPA\\_Code\\_2017\\_4thEd.pdf](https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Ethics/CPA_Code_2017_4thEd.pdf)

Canadian Psychological Association (2017). Practice Guidelines for Providers of Psychological Services Retrieved from <U:\Publications\Practice Guidelines2001.wpd> (cpa.ca)

College of Alberta Psychologists (2021). Practice Guidelines for Psychological Assessment and Testing (2021). Retrieved from <Practice Guideline- Psychological Assessment and Testing final.pdf> (cap.ab.ca)

College of Alberta Psychologists (2019). Practice Guidelines for Psychological Assessment of Parenting Time and Responsibilities. Retrieved from <Psychological-Assessment-of-Parenting-Time-and-Responsibilities-June-2019.pdf> (cap.ab.ca)

College of Alberta Psychologists (2013). Practice Guidelines for Dual roles in conducting assessments and providing therapy with the same client (2013) [Dual Roles and Conducting Assessments and Therapy with the Same Client \(March 2013\) \(cap.ab.ca\)](#)

### Disclaimer

The information provided in this document is intended to provide general guidance to members in identifying and addressing issues, increasing self-efficacy and improve practice in the field of psychology. This document is not exhaustive and may not contain all legislation or information required to make an ethically informed decision. Members are advised that this document provided by the PAA Professional Guidance Program (PGP) is not legal or clinical advice. For any legal advice, consult your liability insurance or a lawyer who specializes in psychological / health service practice. For financial or accounting advice, consult your accountant or auditor or a management accountant who specializes in Alberta health service provision.