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Standard 8.1 "Any information about test content and purposes that is available to any test taker prior to testing should be available to all test takers. Important information should be available free of charge and in accessible formats."

The intent of this standard is equal treatment for all.

Standard 8.2 "Where appropriate, test takers should be provided, in advance, as much information about the test, the testing process, the intended test use, test scoring criteria, testing policy, and confidentiality protection as is consistent with obtaining valid responses."

While these standards apply to both education and psychological testing, it is important to know that psychological testing is generally different from educational testing in that providing specific information about item content and scoring criteria ahead of time will often prevent obtaining valid responses. However, as much information as possible will be provided at the outset of testing.

Standard 8.3 "When the test taker is offered a choice of test format, information about the characteristics of each format should be provided."

In some cases, you can have a choice between a paper-pencil administration and computer-administration. Additionally, some tests are offered in several different languages. Any needed accommodations due to disability or medical condition should be discussed prior to the start of test administration.

Standard 8.4 "Informed consent should be obtained from test takers, or their legal representatives when appropriate, before testing is done except (a) when testing without consent is mandated by law or governmental regulation, (b) when testing is conducted as a regular part of school activities, or (c) when consent is clearly implied."

At the beginning of the assessment process, a written explanation of the reasons for testing, the type of tests to be used, the intended use, and the range of material consequences of the intended use will be provided. If written, video, or audio records are made of the testing session, or other records are kept, you are entitled to know what testing information will be released and to whom, and this will be included in the written explanation.

Consent is not required when testing is legally mandated, such as a court-ordered psychological assessment. When testing is required for employment or educational admissions, consent is considered to have been implicitly given. In the case of testing with children, the informed consent is obtained from the parent or legal guardian, but a developmentally appropriate explanation will still be provided to your child.

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Standard 8.5 "Test results identified by the names of the individual test takers, or by other personally identifying information, should be released only to persons with a legitimate, professional interest in the test taker or who are covered by the informed consent of the test taker or a legal representative, unless otherwise required by law."

In general, I can only release test results with your express written permission. However, if I receive a court order for the test results, I will be required to bring those records to court.

Standard 8.6 "Test data maintained in the data files should be adequately protected from improper disclosure. Use of facsimile transmission, computer networks, data banks, and other electronic data processing or transmittal systems should be restricted to situations in which confidentiality can be reasonably assured."

I keep client files under double lock (locked cabinet in a locked room) in order to protect test data. All electronic files are password protected and all electronic or faxed communications are accompanied by a notice of confidentiality.

Standard 8.7 "Test takers should be made aware that having someone else take the test for them, disclosing confidential test material, or any other form of cheating is inappropriate and that such behavior may result in sanctions."

Typically in psychological testing, there is little to no opportunity for cheating. However, publishers of the various psychological tests request that specific item information not be made public in order to protect the integrity of the test.

Standard 8.8 "When score reporting includes assigning individuals to categories, the categories should be chosen carefully and described precisely. The least stigmatizing labels, consistent with accurate representation, should always be assigned."

Many test publishers have significantly revised the labels they assign to score ranges in order to reduce stigma. It is important to know that it is unethical to assign a mental health diagnosis on the basis of only one test, one of the reasons that I conduct thorough assessment batteries.

Standard 8.9 "When test scores are used to make decisions about a test taker or to make recommendations to a test taker or a third party, the test taker or the legal representative is entitled to obtain a copy of any report of test scores or test interpretation, unless that right has been waived or is prohibited by law or court order."

I always provide several copies of the report to you, which contains test interpretations.