

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION GUIDE - AGENCY/ CLINICAL VERSION

FAMILY FUNCTIONING ASSESSMENT

| Feature | Lite | Standard | Complex |
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| Clinical Purpose | Functional screening tool; identifies immediate patterns and concerns. Not suitable for legal decisions. | Comprehensive assessment of family functioning across interpersonal, environmental, and relational domains. | Forensic-level systemic assessment integrating history, risk factors, intergenerational patterns, and multi-setting behaviour. |
| Assessment Frameworks | Descriptive functional review | Family systems theory, attachment-informed observation, and ecological frameworks | Family systems theory, ecological mapping, intergenerational analysis, risk formulation, DFV-informed frameworks |
| Collateral Review | Recent documents only | Court orders, case notes, previous assessments, relevant reports | Historical files, multi-agency reports, therapeutic records, specialist assessments |
| Interview Protocol | One parent interview | Semi-structured interviews with parents/carers | Extended, multiple interviews; collateral interviewing with professionals (as consented) |
| Child Participation | Optional; brief wellbeing check | As clinically indicated; semi-structured child voice | Multi-setting child voice collection; structured observation tools (if appropriate) |

| Feature | Lite | Standard | Complex |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Observational Methods | None | Structured family interaction observation | Multi-setting observation using behavioural coding, contextual analysis |
| Domains Assessed | Global functioning | Communication, parental alignment, routines, parenting responses, and emotional climate | Safety dynamics, DFV/AOD/MH impacts, conflict cycles, attachment quality, trauma patterns |
| Cultural Assessment | Not included | Cultural identity considered | Cultural mapping, consultation with cultural supports/elders (if applicable) |
| Analytical Approach | Descriptive summary | Analytical + interpretive | Triangulated analysis, including chronology, pattern mapping, systemic formulation |
| Risk Analysis | High-level | Standard risk assessment | Complex risk formulation: coercive control, cumulative harm, environmental risk, intersecting vulnerabilities |
| Deliverables | 2–3 page summary report | 5–8 page clinical assessment with recommendations | 10–15 page structured forensic report, with risk formulation + recommendations |
| Recommended Use | Early-stage screening only | Case planning, reunification, and multi-agency coordination | Court matters, high-risk cases, long-term involvement |

PARENTING CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

| Feature | PCA Lite | Standard PCA | Complex PCA |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|
| Clinical Purpose | Brief parenting snapshot; not for legal decisions; early progress or screening only | Comprehensive PCA exploring parenting skills, insight, capacity for change, and safety | Forensic PCA integrating risk history, specialist collateral, multi-setting data, and advanced risk modelling |
| Assessment Frameworks | Basic capacity indicators | Parenting Capacity Framework, attachment-informed observation | Parenting Capacity Framework, DFV-informed framework, AOD/MH considerations, cumulative harm, chronology + triangulation |
| Collateral Review | Recent only | Core file review, including orders, assessments, and case notes | Extensive historical + specialist reports, multi-agency input (health, education, legal) |
| Parent Interviews | 1–2 | Semi-structured interviews (2–3 per parent) | Extended sessions, collateral consults, motivational interviewing components |
| Child Interviews | 1–2 short sessions | 2–3 semi-structured sessions | Multi-setting interviews; behavioural observation tools, if appropriate |
| Parent–Child Interaction | One observation | Structured observational assessment | Multi-session observation with behavioural coding and qualitative analysis |
| Domains Assessed | High-level functioning | Parenting insight, empathy, attunement, routines, emotional availability, discipline, safety behaviours | Detailed assessment of capacity for change, risk management, ability to protect from DFV, mental health and AOD impacts, intergenerational parenting patterns |

| Feature | PCA Lite | Standard PCA | Complex PCA |
|---------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Risk Assessment | Basic | Full risk + protective factor analysis | Advanced risk formulation: coercive control, cumulative harm, relapse risk, environmental risk, system impacts |
| Cultural Assessment | Basic | Cultural considerations integrated | Detailed cultural mapping + consultation if required |
| Systems Analysis | Not included | Parent–child–environment dynamics | Intergenerational, multi-system, ecological mapping |
| Analysis | Descriptive | Analytical + comparative | Triangulated; chronology-based; forensic formulation |
| Deliverables | 4–6 page summary | Court-ready PCA | Forensic PCA with risk formulation, evidence summary, and recommendations |
| Recommended Use | Early-stage only | Court matters, reunification, permanency decisions | High-risk DFV, AOD, MH cases, disputed court matters requiring high defensibility |

Note: Assessment level is confirmed after reviewing referral information, risk factors, history, and complexity.

*** Lite assessments are not suitable for court decisions, reunification planning, DFV matters, or cases involving significant historical or multi-agency concerns. Additional fees may apply where extra interviews, observations, or records are required.