

## ASSESSMENT INFORMATION GUIDE - AGENCY/ CLINICAL VERSION

### FAMILY FUNCTIONING ASSESSMENT

Feature	Lite	Standard	Complex
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.