

Example of Referral Letter to Expert Evaluator

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September 8, 2007

Joe Anybody, Ph.D.
1234 5th Street
Anytown, WA 99888

RE: **Father: John Doe DOB: 02/04/1987**
 Mother: Jane Smith DOB: 10/29/1982
 Child: Baby girl Doe DOB: 05/20/2004

Dear Dr. Anybody:

Example Letter	Suggested Topics
I am the CWS social worker assigned to work with John Doe. This letter is to request a court ordered psychological evaluation containing a parenting component, with an emphasis on father's potential for violence and ability to be a safe, responsible parent.	Introduce your self and your client. Provide the reasons you want the evaluation.
Mr. Doe is a single, 20-year-old father of one. His attorney in this matter is Abby S. Korpis of the local public defender office (xxx-xxx-xxxx). He is living in Anytown with a relative and reports that he is working full-time in construction and is active in services. In response to a criminal court order. Mr. Doe has completed a Domestic Violence program and parenting class through It Takes a Village. He is in regular contact with his probation officer and me. He has been doing UAs M, W, F for the past 3 months. In November, there was a UA positive for THC, and 2 diluted.. Father reported that he had a recent VUCSA and has been in jail and on house arrest during March '07. There is a 5-year no-contact order with the mother. The mother reports that Mr. Doe (the father) has violated the order 3 times within the last 2 weeks He was leaving messages on her phone reporting that he wasn't doing well, that he	Introduce your client. His/her attorney should be named; that individual may contact the evaluator. Provide summary with descriptive statements (behaviorally based). Address strengths and challenges (weaknesses). A parents' choice in

was going to jail, and asking her to call him back.

The child is placed with the maternal grandparents with a primary plan of reunification with mother. Placement with the father was ruled out due to his criminal history including: Assault 4th Degree (3/28/05); Violation of Harassment No Contact Order (5/14/05); Assault 4th Degree (07/02/05); Protection Order Violation (7/14/05); No Contact Order Violation (08/05/95); Reckless Endangerment and Malicious Mischief 3rd Degree (10/10/04); Protection Order Violation (08/01/05) and Assault 4th Degree (09/25/03) and concern regarding the father's ability to create and maintain a safe stable lifestyle and be a safe, gentle parent.

At this time, the child has been in out-of-home placement for over one year. Due to the lack of sufficient progress by parents, the Department is filing for termination. The father is asking to be considered for placement and has inquired as to how he could show he was a good dad. I explained to him that in addition to making progress with his services, he needed to visit frequently and show positive interactions, parenting skills and bonding with child.

According to the mother and the maternal relatives, the father has not been a consistent part of the child's life and has engaged in very few visits. When I initially was assigned to this case in August '06, the father was refusing to visit the child due to the restriction of having a supervisor. In November '06, the father agreed to allow the maternal grandfather to supervise the visits. Since then, 4 visits have occurred. The father states that he would like a professional supervisor to supervise the visits two times/wk due to problems with the grandfather not being available. The grandfather states that the father calls with little to no advanced notice and asks to visit, but the family has other plans (camping, family functions, church, etc.)

The Department has identified the following risks that may affect the father's parenting:

- Anger management and DV issues
- Substance use and selling
- Poor life management skills
- Possible PTSD/Trauma issues related to CA/N as

partners is relevant. Provide detailed information to support a complete and comprehensive evaluation. Other family members / friends may also play a pivotal role in the parent's life and may be included.

Include relevant history, current legal status and time line.

Information for children should describe the children's needs and issues that are relevant to past parenting and future parenting.

Share what you know about any and all concerns regarding the children in order to address their parenting needs; now and over time.

Attach all relevant documentation regarding the children.

<p>a child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of parenting skills and attachment to child 	
<p>Questions to be addressed by the comprehensive psychological evaluation with parenting assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Mr. Doe's strengths and challenges with respect to his ability to parent? • What is the prognosis for Mr. Doe to be able to control his anger and have non-violent relationships? • What services would you recommend to address the risk factors noted above? • Mental Health diagnosis? Please provide an assessment with appropriate multi-axial diagnoses. How would any mental health diagnosis affect Mr. Doe's ability to parent? 	<p>Provide specific questions to be answered by the evaluation report.</p> <p>This information will guide the evaluator and insure the Department's (what department?) needs are addressed</p>
<p>I am providing the ISSP, dependency petition and dispositional order, and contested motion regarding Mr. Doe's (the father) psychological evaluation.</p>	<p>Attach all supporting documentation which may include past and current providers' reports, educational records, service episode records, visitation reports, etc.</p>
<p>The following people are available for collateral contacts: CASA – Ms. Someone 000-000-0000 Mr. Doe (Father) therapist – Dr. Shrink 000-000-0000 Maternal Grandfather – Randy Smith 000-000-0000 Paternal Grandmother – Grace Smith</p>	<p>Provide contact information for all relevant parties.</p>

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any further questions, I can be reached at 000-000-0000.

Respectfully,

Social Worker's Name
Office and position