

Questions about Court Ordered Evaluations?

Call us at 608-250-6634 to speak with a COE staff person.

The Court Ordered Evaluation (COE) program serves as Dane County Human Services' contract vendor for brokering various types of court-ordered evaluations for individuals under the following Wisconsin State Statutes:

Juvenile Justice Code 938.295

Children's Code 48.295

Emergency Detention & Involuntary Commitment for Treatment Chapter 51



About RISE

RISE is a non-profit located in Madison, WI that provides support, education, coordination of care, and assessment and evaluation services to individuals, youth, and families.



Helping Community & Family Thrive

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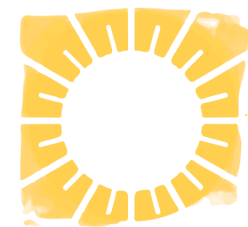


Court Ordered Evaluations

Chapters 48 & 938



Information about the Court Ordered Evaluation process and your rights and responsibilities



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What is a court-ordered evaluation?

The court may order you and/or your child to be evaluated by a psychologist, clinician, psychiatrist, or physician. The court usually orders an evaluation if the court needs more information about you or your child's current functioning as it relates to any of the following areas:

- Mental health concerns
- Physical health and medication concerns
- Drug or alcohol concerns
- Developmental functioning

An evaluation often helps the court understand what is happening in your child and/or family's life, and will help the court determine the best service and treatment plan for you and/or your child.

Who will be given copies of the evaluation report?

The evaluation report is submitted directly to the court by the evaluator, and is considered a confidential court document. Other people who the court may share a copy of your evaluation results with include:

- Dane County Department of Human Services (DCDHS) social worker
- District Attorney or Corporation Counsel
- Guardian ad litem or attorney for your child
- any other attorney representing any party to your child or family's case.

A copy of the evaluation will also be placed in your family's file with DCDHS. If necessary, a copy may also be provided to any other court-ordered service providers or out-of-home placement providers.

What to expect when a judge orders an evaluation

- You will receive a letter from RISE/COE with information about who is assigned to complete your evaluation and how to reach the evaluator. **Once you receive this letter asking you to set up an appointment, please do so as soon possible.** If you do not agree with the evaluator chosen to complete your evaluation, you will need to call COE staff (608-250-6634) and they will work to find a new evaluator.
- Most appointments are scheduled during weekday hours, but an evaluator may offer other hours that work better for your schedule.
- If you are not in contact with the evaluator, or do not attend the evaluation appointments, the court will be notified and will work with you and your social worker on ways to complete the evaluation process.
- Let your DCDHS social worker know if you need help with transportation to and from your appointment.
- Your evaluation appointment may last 1-4 hours, so be sure to plan transportation and childcare needs around this. It's also a good idea to dress in comfortable clothes and pack a snack for yourself or your child for the appointment if you think you'll need it.
- Some evaluation types may require you to fill out paperwork, take several types of tests, or may need to observe you and your child(ren) together.
- The evaluator will ask you to sign releases of information for other people and services involved in your life. This will help them access important information about you and include it in their evaluation and recommendations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who pays for the evaluation?

Dane County pays for the evaluation. You will not be billed for the evaluation and evaluators will not collect insurance or billing information from you.

Will I be given a copy of the completed report?

No. Your attorney or social worker will summarize the report and review it with you. You may only receive a copy of the report with the permission of the court. Your attorney or social worker can help you request a copy.

Will the report be shared with my child's school or other people?

No. If there is good reason for service providers or your child's school to have access to the report, the court must grant permission for it to be shared.

How is an evaluator selected for me or my child?

COE reviews the court and human services information on you and your family and selects an evaluator that has expertise, skills, and experience particular to issues or needs that are relevant to your situation.

What if I don't participate in the evaluation?

Your social worker, COE, and the court will work closely with you to figure out what factors may be preventing you from completing the evaluation process, and will help you make a plan to complete your evaluation as soon as possible.