**Family Safety Assessments**

*Information for parents*

What does a risk assessment involve?

The family court asks for a domestic violence risk assessment when there are concerns that violence or other forms of conflict in the home, or during contact, might pose a risk to children and/or parents.

The assessment involves meeting with one (or sometimes two) of our staff at our offices in Chiswick, West London. If this is not convenient we can sometimes arrange to meet you at your solicitor’s offices. We nearly always meet with parents separately rather than together.

We are likely to want to see you more than once, as the aim is to give your case the detailed attention that it deserves. In the interviews you will be asked questions about your current situation as well as past experiences and we will also ask you to fill in some questionnaires. You will of course have an opportunity to express your views.

We will then use the information that you and your (ex) partner give to us, alongside any other information that has been provided to the court, to make an assessment of whether there is a significant risk to your child/ren from domestic violence or other forms of maltreatment.

You don’t have to take part in the assessment. However if you choose not to, this will mean you don’t get a chance to tell us your side of the story, and we will only have the statements you have made to the court when considering your views.

We usually file our report within eight weeks of being instructed by the courts. The report will be sent to your solicitor (if you are not represented we will send the report directly to you). If you don’t agree with the conclusions of the report, you should discuss this with your solicitor.

All our staff have post- graduate qualifications and upwards of fourteen years’ experience of working with violence in families, and so are well-placed to advise the courts on these issues.