THE CHILDREN’S AUTHORITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
JOB DESCRIPTION - PSYCHOLOGIST

Job Title: Psychologist
Department: Assessment
Section: Care Services
Reports to: Assessment Manager

JOB SUMMARY

The Psychologist will provide psychological assessment services including assessment of conditions associated with abuse and /or neglect e.g. child’s physical and emotional safety, learning, development, behaviour and family relationships, socio-emotional adjustment and the impact of trauma on the child.

These services will be delivered in keeping with best practice, while respecting and promoting the rights of the child; showing sensitivity to children’s issues.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

i. Ensure that the services delivered at the Assessment Centre contribute toward safeguarding children by working closely with the members of the team inclusive of the Paediatrician, Children’s Services Associates and Nurses.

ii. Participate on multidisciplinary case conferencing to address complex issues related to the abuse of a child.

iii. Administer appropriate Psychological tests, inclusive of clinical interviews and other therapeutic modalities in order to arrive at an opinion on the psychological well-being of the child.

iv. Contribute towards the development of policy and procedure by providing expert advice on child protection issues.

v. Provide advice to stakeholder agencies on psychological issues relevant to safeguarding children.

vi. Conduct psychological screening and assessment, collect information and maintain records on patient history, assessment results, etc. to inform the preparation of Treatment Plans.

vii. Provide immediate consultation, short-term therapy and crisis intervention to children who are traumatised or affected by abuse and/or neglect.
viii. Provide feedback to legal guardians, caregivers, and/or educators through the prescribed reporting mechanisms, to guide the future care to be given to the child.

ix. Provide court testimony as is necessary.

x. Refer patients to other specialists as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Certified Psychologist.

- At least a Masters Level qualification in clinical, developmental psychology, paediatric neuropsychology, or a closely related area, with a specialisation in child/paediatric work.

- Training at the doctoral level in child clinical and/or developmental psychology will be an asset.

- Clinical experience in child protection will be an asset.

- Experience with the local law as it applies to children in the Court process.

- Any other equivalent combination of training and experience will be considered.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Confidentiality with respect to information records concerning families and children.

- Willing to mentor junior staff.

- Ability to use tact and be sensitive when dealing with patients and families.

- Demonstrable interest in children, their needs and rights.

- Child-friendly approach to working with children.