

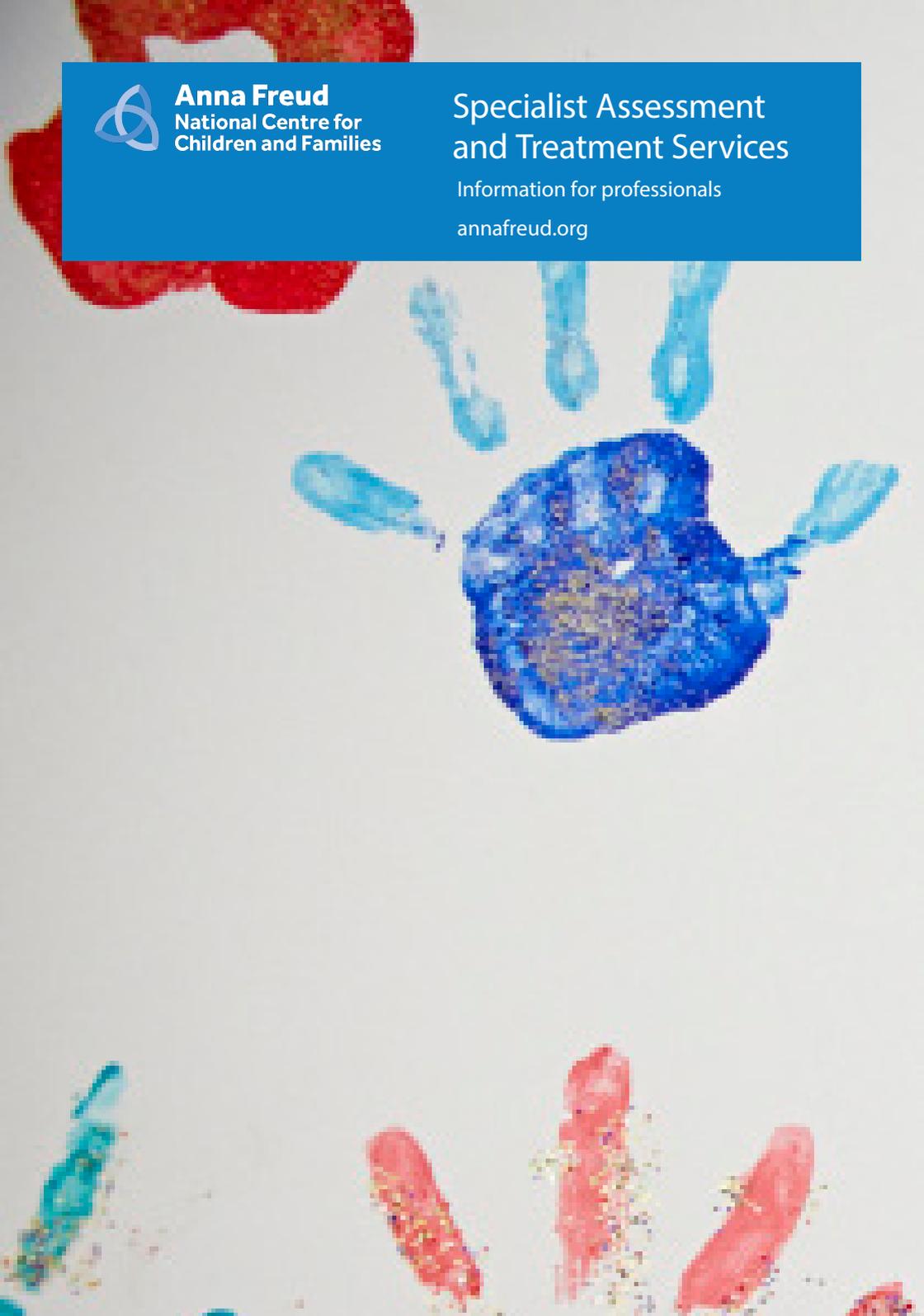


**Anna Freud**  
National Centre for  
Children and Families

# Specialist Assessment and Treatment Services

Information for professionals

[annafreud.org](http://annafreud.org)



## Who we are

Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families provides specialist services undertaking comprehensive assessments of children and families, many of whom are in public and private family law proceedings nationwide, and therapeutic work. Our expert witness assessments also cover viability assessments.

The team comprises of workers from a range of disciplines including Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Adult Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, Family Therapy, Child & Adolescent Psychotherapy, Play Therapy and Social Work.

## Who we help

The team has expertise in assessing the following issues:

- Psychiatric, psychological and cognitive profiles of parents and children;
- Parenting capacity;
- Entrenched parental contact; residence disputes and placement needs
- Parental mental health and its impact on parenting with a particular specialism in:
  - Personality Disorder
  - Postnatal Depression
  - Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
  - Eating Disorders
  - Fictitious / Fabricated Illness Disorder
- Childhood adversity:
  - Child abuse and neglect
  - Exposure to domestic violence
  - Traumatic events
- Children's therapeutic and placement needs, including adoptive/ foster placement breakdown;
- Attachment and bonding.

The team has specific experience of working with different cultural groups and interpreters, thus able to undertake culturally sensitive work with families from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds.

## How we help

We are dedicated to serving the most disadvantaged children in society. Our approach is based on systemic, psychodynamic principles with a strong emphasis on attachment-focused assessments to serve the best interests of the child.

Our assessments often begin with a meeting involving the network, i.e. parents and professionals, during which the assessment process is outlined and the concerns about the family are explored.

We help family members understand the assessment process and ensure they have the opportunity to ask questions and air their views during the process.

Family members are seen individually and together, both at the Centre and in the community (home, school and other relevant settings). Intensity and scope of the assessments depend on the specifics of each case.

Team members write a comprehensive report upon completion and attend court when required for cross-examination at the final hearing. According to our assessment of the needs of each case, team members work individually or in clusters of specialisms.

We are also able to offer therapeutic work for children, adults, parental couples and families, as well as multifamily group work.

