

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q. How long will the day take?**

The length of the process will vary depending on what type of appointment you have. On average, individuals seen at our office for an evaluation are here for between four and six hours. Post-critical incident debriefings are much briefer and typically last from one to two hours.

Individuals who are coming to our office for an interview only and have already completed the psychological testing can be expected to be here for a shorter period of time.

## **Q. Can I bring snacks or take a lunch break?**

Snacks and beverages are allowed, but candidates are encouraged to consume them in the waiting room.

Breaks are allowed for lunch.

## **Q. Do you have on-site parking?**

Yes, on-site parking is available between spot numbers 35 through 43 and 61 through 67. All parking spots are labelled. If all labeled parking spots are full upon arrival, please call (201) 337-4996.

## **Q. Are you close to any public transportation?**

The closest NJ Transit bus stop is approximately one mile away; it is located at the Copper Tree Shopping Plaza.

## **Q. Do I need to bring anything with me?**

All testing supplies are provided by IFP. Please do not bring any personal documents unless otherwise requested by IFP or your hiring department or agency.

## **Q. Is there anything prohibited?**

Weapons, cell phone, recording devices and other electronic devices are prohibited in the testing facility. If there are any special circumstances (e.g. your spouse is about to give birth, you are a single parent without anyone else for child care), please notify a staff member.

## **Q. What happens if there is going to be inclement weather on the day of my appointment?**

In the event of any inclement weather, IFP will be closed if the Oakland, NJ high school (Indian Hills) is closed. Information on school closings can be obtained by calling (201) 848-SNOW. Additionally, individuals may check [www.ifp-testing](http://www.ifp-testing) on the day of your appointment.

## **Q. What do I do if I am going to be late?**

If you are going to be late for your scheduled appointment time, please call (201) 337-4996.

## **Q. What if I cannot make it to my appointment?**

If you are unable to make it to your appointment, please contact IFP at (201) 337-4996. In addition, you must also contact your hiring department or agency to inform them that you are unable to make your appointment.

If you are not feeling well or have a contagious illness on the day of your appointment, please contact IFP at (201) 337-4996 as well as your hiring department or agency.

## **Q. I'm a Veteran and I am collecting a disability pension for PTSD [or other mental health condition]. Does that automatically disqualify me in a psychological screening?**

No. Every case is looked at individually. The general rating formula for mental health disorders, including PTSD, can be found at the VA's website:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/warms/bookc.asp#r>

In general, however, if you are collecting disability compensation for a mental health disorder, it suggests that you are suffering from "occupational and social impairment." Depending upon the level of your disability, this implies symptoms including impaired judgement, memory loss, anxiety, and intermittent periods of an inability to perform occupational tasks. A more detailed discussion can be found at:

<http://www.militarydisabilitymadeeasy.com/mentaldisorders.html>

As screeners of mental health functioning, our job is to identify those individuals who are currently impaired or likely to show impairment on the job. If you are not currently impaired, and other factors would not prevent your likely success in a public safety position, you may be recommended for the position to which you are applying. However, some agencies will not accept candidates who are receiving mental health disability benefits, due in large part to the potential liability it may create. As a result, it may be in a veteran's best interest (if you have not had symptoms for a significant period of time) to have your compensation tolled by the VA. Typically, this may be done by (1) undergoing a re-assessment at your local VA; or (2) having your psychologist or psychiatrist write to the VA on your behalf, indicating that your symptoms have subsided. The VA has a helpline at 1-800-827-1000.

## **Q. How can Veteran's obtain their records?**

A useful link for veterans to obtain their own medical and other service records is:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>