Dr Nigel Blagg Chartered Psychologist & Registered Educational Psychologist

Adult, Child & Family Assessments

Dr Nigel Blagg has more than 30 years educational and clinical experience working with adults, children and families in multi-professional settings. He is a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS), an Associate Fellow of the BPS (#001786), is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC #PYL02660) and is DBS checked # 001637718870 (Nov 2018). Dr Blagg is also a member of the Royal Society of Medicine as an Associate Fellow and a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

His qualifications include a BSc Honours Degree in Psychology (University of Nottingham), a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (University of Nottingham), a Masters Degree in Educational and Child Psychology completed at the Child Development Research Unit (University of Nottingham) and a Doctorate in the Clinical Psychology field awarded by The Institute of Psychiatry (University of London). Dr Blagg is a qualified registered user of a portfolio of psychometric tests and clinical procedures assessing intelligence, personality & mental health and autism spectrum conditions in both adults and children.

Dr Blagg participates in ongoing CPD related to his clinical practice as a Psychologist. For example, he has completed training in the Attachment Style Interview for Adoption and Fostering; Patricia Crittenden's Dynamic-Maturational Model of Patterns of Attachment in Adulthood; the International Personality Disorder Examination; the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory – III, the HCR-20 v3 (to assess risk of future violence); the SVR-20 (for assessing risk of future sexual offending) and the ADOS-2 and ADI-R (gold standard tools for the assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders). He has also attended courses concerning parenting and personality disorder, the neuroscience of attachment and attachment disorders, psychosomatic illness, medically unexplained illness, Body Dysmorphic Disorder, the impact of domestic violence and substance misuse on parenting and the Resolutions approach to the development of safety plans in disputed child abuse cases. Dr Blagg recently completed BPS training in Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (which has just been included as a new diagnostic category in the ICD 11).

In his early career as a psychologist (1976 – 1990) Dr Blagg was responsible for the assessment, management and treatment of children and adolescents with a wide range of special educational needs including Autism and School Phobia. He also routinely prepared reports for the court on young offenders placed on remand. During this time Dr Blagg conducted seminal research into the aetiology and treatment of school phobia and the enhancement of thinking and learning skills in adolescents leading to the publication of a widely used modular thinking skills programme and two academic books "School Phobia and its Treatment" and "Can We Teach Intelligence?" (both reprinted by Routledge in 2017). For a number of years during the 1980s Dr Blagg was an Associate Editor with Behaviour Change - Journal of the Australian Association for Cognitive and Behaviour Therapy.

In 1990 Dr Blagg established Nigel Blagg Associates, providing psychological services as well as researching transferrable skills and employability issues. The latter resulted in the publication of the "*Thinking Skills at Work*" modules, research reports and good practice guides. Nigel Blagg Associates became incorporated as NBA Solutions Ltd in 2003, although the name Nigel Blagg Associates was retained for expert witness services via a team of HCPC Registered Psychologists with specialisms in educational, clinical, forensic, counselling and neuropsychology.

Since 1990, Dr Blagg has maintained clinical work with children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Pathological Demand Avoidance, ADHD and school refusal with Anxiety. He has acted as a consultant to the Elizabeth Newson Centre (Autism East Midlands). He has also conducted assessments and provided advice for Child Protection Agencies at the pre-proceedings stage and to Local Authorities following court proceedings when there have been concerns about placement stability and/or sibling relationship issues.

Dr Blagg has provided expert witness assessments since 1993 within **Family Proceedings** and **Private Law disputes**. He has acted as an expert witness in high conflict private law proceedings over many years and has developed a specialist interest in cases of alleged Parental Alienation. He has completed BPS training in assessment tools and interventions for such cases and in 2017 attended the First International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group in Washington, D.C. He has co-authored a research paper on parent-child relationships in alienated vs abused children which was published in 2018 in the peer-reviewed journal Child Abuse Review (DOI: 10.1002/car.2537). Dr Blagg accepts instructions relating to the assessment of:

- Placement and therapeutic needs of children in complex Residence/Contact disputes involving alleged parental alienation
- Parenting ability, adult learning disability, personality disorder and mental health and impact of alcohol and drug misuse
- Adult attachment style, relationship issues and family dynamics including impact of domestic violence and / or substance misuse
- Harm suffered by children or risk of future harm with respect to neglect and / or abuse (including emotional, sexual or physical)
- The nature of a child's attachment relationships and sibling relationships
- Therapeutic and support needs of parents and / or children, prospect of change and the likely timescale for that change
- Placement needs of children following a Care Order, including whether siblings should be placed together or separately and the nature and extent of contact with birth family
- Children's special educational needs
- Complex cases involving school refusal with anxiety and/or ASD

Dr Blagg has given evidence in Court on numerous occasions.