

MEDICO-LEGAL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICES

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1. Medico-legal assessments and reports

I offer medico-legal assessments and reports for medical negligence and personal injury cases. These primarily fall into the areas of birth injury in children, and traumatic brain injury in adults. I accept instructions on behalf of both the plaintiff and the defendant.

Upon receipt of instructions regarding the case, and acceptance of my terms by the client, I offer an appointment at the client's residence, facility, other suitable location, or at my office based near Clonakilty, Co. Cork. The assessment generally lasts 2 hours, and involves an in-depth exploration of the speech, language and communication skills of the individual. This can include:

- Discussion with family members, key workers and any other relevant personnel.
- Discussion with the client (as appropriate)
- Informal interaction with the client. With children this may be play or music based.
- Observation of the client in his/her natural environment.
- Formal assessment using statistically standardised tools (if appropriate)
- Informal assessment, using the natural environment, books, photos, pictures, toys (for children), musical instruments
- Informal assessment using assistive technology, including apps, recordable switches, music based technology

Following the assessment, reports are completed within 15 working days. Should a report be required more urgently, then an expedited service is available.

My reports provide a detailed account of the background issues, the current situation, my professional opinion regarding the client's current speech, language and communication skills, and my prognosis regarding future skills.

Recommendations within my reports are as per instructions, but will generally include:

- Future therapy provision requirements
- Equipment/technology relating to speech, language or communication skills
- recommendations regarding the client's needs into the future.

2. Acting as an Intermediary

Adults with speech, language or communication difficulties can struggle to understand written or spoken information and/or express themselves. This can have serious implications in relation to accessing the legal system. In these instances, I can act as an intermediary. Services I provide include:

- Making written information accessible to the individual.
- Attending clinical assessments, such as psychiatric assessments.
- Supporting an individual's ability to give informed consent
- Attending meetings, case conferences
- Court attendance

3. Qualifications

BSc. Clinical Speech and Language Studies, Trinity College Dublin, 1997.

MA, Music Therapy, University of Limerick, 2006

4. Professional membership

CORU registered

Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists (IASLT)

Independent Speech & Language Therapists Ireland (ISTI)

5. Experience

I have over 20 years practicing as a speech and language therapist, and have worked across a range clinical, educational and private settings. These have included:

Private speech and language therapy and music therapy practice based in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, 2008-present

Private speech and language therapy and music therapy practice based in Portlaoise, Co. Laois, 2005-2008.

Adelaide and Meath Incorporating the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght (A.M.N.C.H.) 2007, clinical music therapy researcher under the stroke unit.

H.S.E. Laois/Offaly, 2004-2005 (sessional work), practicing as a speech and language therapist

Special Education, Department of Education New Zealand, 2000-2004. Practicing as both a speech and language therapist and Assistive Technology Advisor.

North Eastern Health Board 1997-2000: Practicing as a speech and language therapist within clinical and educational settings.

6. Medico-legal experience

Since 2014 I have been offering medico-legal services and to date have completed over 50 cases. I have developed my expertise in this area from my extensive professional experience, along with self-directed study, attending medico-legal conferences, collaborating with expert witnesses from other allied health professions, and through peer supervision.

Feel free to contact me for further information regarding my services.