

WHAT IS A FORENSIC SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST?

Understanding the Role in Legal Settings

Definition: A Forensic Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) evaluates how communication, language, memory, and cognitive processing impact an individual's reliability, behavior, and participation in legal settings.

Areas We Assess

- Memory accuracy and consistency
- Processing speed and attention
- Understanding of legal language (e.g., Miranda rights)
- Narrative organization and coherence
- Speech clarity, intelligibility, and motor speech
- Cognitive-communication changes after TBI, stroke, dementia, autism, ADHD

Why It Matters

Traditional psychological evaluations do **not** capture how neurological or communication impairments impact statements, testimony, or legal understanding. A forensic SLP fills that gap with science-driven analysis.

Perfect For

- Criminal cases (Miranda comprehension, testimony clarity)
- Personal injury/TBI litigation
- Elder abuse/dementia cases
- Capacity/guardianship evaluations