

TBI Cognitive-Communication Checklist for Attorneys

Red flags after Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) can significantly impact the cognitive-communication skills required for legal interviews, statements, testimony, and interrogation.

TBI commonly affects memory networks, attention, processing speed, language retrieval, and executive functioning—all of which shape how a person understands questions, organizes information, and communicates reliably.



EJT Communication Consultant

Communicate with Confidence, Inspire with Impact

Review the characteristics below and check off any that your client demonstrates:

- ☐ Inconsistent story, shifting details, or contradictions over time
- ☐ Slowed responses, delayed processing, or long pauses before answering
- ☐ Word-finding difficulty or vague, non-specific language
- ☐ Difficulty understanding complex or rapid questions
- ☐ Trouble recalling timelines, sequences, or cause-and-effect
- ☐ Overwhelm or shutdown during fast-paced questioning
- ☐ Flat affect, limited spontaneous language, or fragmented narrative structure

How a Forensic SLP Helps

- *Documents communication deficits.*
- *Differentiates neurological impairment from deception.*
- *Provides accommodations for interviews/testimony.*
- *Offers expert interpretation of communication changes.*

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