

WHEN TO CONSIDER A FORENSIC COMMUNICATION REVIEW

Attorney Decision-Support Checklist

This checklist helps attorneys determine when communication factors—not just psychological factors—may materially impact a case.



EJT Communication Consultant

Communicate with Confidence, Inspire with Impact

During Client Interviews

- Client agrees but later contradicts themselves
- Client struggles to paraphrase information
- Client appears compliant without true understanding
- Communication improves when questions are simplified

During Interrogations or Recorded Statements

- Long pauses or delayed responses
- Leading questions appear to shape responses
- Client changes answers under pressure
- Language complexity exceeds client's abilities

During Case Preparation

- Client struggles to understand strategy or consequences
- Difficulty recalling prior discussions
- Inconsistent narratives across meetings
- Difficulty preparing for testimony

□ During Court Proceedings

- Client misunderstands questions on the stand
- Appears confused or overwhelmed
- Gives non-responsive answers
- Difficulty following courtroom discourse



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Key Reminder for Legal Teams

Not all communication impairments are obvious.

Many clients **sound fluent** but lack the **cognitive-linguistic capacity** required for legal comprehension and decision-making.

How a Forensic SLP Helps

A forensic speech-language pathologist provides:

- Objective analysis of communication abilities
- Evaluation of comprehension, expression, and reliability
- Record-based or direct forensic communication assessments
 - Clear, legallyrelevant reporting

A forensic speech-language pathologist evaluates ***how communication—not psychology alone—impacts legal outcomes.***

This checklist is informational only and does not constitute a diagnosis or legal opinion. Formal evaluation is required to determine the presence and impact of communication impairment.