

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
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□ During Court Proceedings

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



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, legally relevant 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.