

TBI COGNITIVE-COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST FOR ATTORNEYS

Red Flags After Traumatic Brain Injury

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.

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