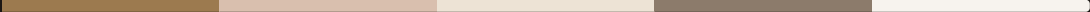


Communication *Red Flags* After Brain Injury

*A field checklist for spotting cognitive-communication
breakdown during interviews, prep, and testimony.*



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Interview-stage red flags
- Deposition & prep-stage red flags
- Written correspondence red flags
- How the pattern should change your strategy

What to Watch For — And Why It Matters to the Case

Not every communication breakdown is evasiveness, and not every clear answer means comprehension. This checklist gives you a fast way to flag patterns worth a closer clinical look.

WHY THIS MATTERS

A client's communication style during your case can be evidence — of injury, of unreliability, or of both. Knowing which is which changes strategy.

DURING THE INITIAL INTERVIEW

- ☐ **Client loses the thread of their own story without redirection**
Watch for tangential or circular narratives.
 - ☐ **Client answers a different question than the one asked**
May signal comprehension breakdown, not evasiveness.
 - ☐ **Client relies heavily on a family member to "fill in" answers**
Note who answers what, and how often.
 - ☐ **Client's account changes in structure (not just detail) across retellings**
Structure drift is a different signal than fact drift.
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DURING DEPOSITION & TESTIMONY PREP

- ☐ **Client fatigues and becomes less coherent as sessions progress**
Consider shorter sessions with built-in breaks.
 - ☐ **Client agrees with leading questions inconsistently or too readily**
Can reflect comprehension load, not just suggestibility.
 - ☐ **Client needs frequent repetition of multi-part questions**
Document this pattern — it's relevant to how testimony should be elicited.
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IN WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

- ☐ **Emails or forms show disorganization not present pre-injury**
Compare against pre-injury writing samples where available.
 - ☐ **Client misses deadlines tied to multi-step written instructions**
Distinguish comprehension breakdown from simple noncompliance.
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THE STRATEGIC POINT

These patterns don't just support damages — they change how you should structure interviews, prep sessions, and even settlement conversations with this client.

Let's talk

EJT

Spotting a pattern you can't quite *name*?

I consult with counsel on witness communication patterns, testimony reliability, and when a formal evaluation will strengthen — or protect — your case.

M.S., CCC-SLP

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