

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.

■ 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

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 evaluates **how communication—not psychology alone—impacts legal outcomes.**

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