

# MIRANDA RIGHTS COMPREHENSION

What Attorneys Need to Know

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## Understanding Miranda Is Not Automatic

Many individuals with TBI, stroke, autism, ADHD, dementia, language disorders, or low processing speed struggle to fully understand Miranda warnings. Communication breakdowns can lead to invalid waivers, inaccurate statements, or vulnerability to coercion.

## Common Barriers

- Difficulty understanding abstract legal vocabulary
- Misinterpreting conditional statements ('anything you say...')
- Limited working memory to retain the full warning
- Language processing delays
- Literal interpretation common in autism spectrum profiles

## How Forensic SLPs Evaluate Miranda Understanding

- Breakdown of each clause for comprehension
- Assessment of recall, paraphrasing, and reasoning
- Identification of cognitive-linguistic barriers
- Expert opinion on whether comprehension was functional at the time

