

MENTAL CAPACITIES ASSESSMENT FOR MINORS

NAME: _____ SSN: _____

A. How would you assess the child's functioning in the following domains (please see endnotes):

	Not Significantly	Moderately Limited	Markedly Limited ¹	Extremely Limited ²
1. Acquiring and using information ³	[]	[]	[]	[]
2. Attending and completing tasks ⁴	[]	[]	[]	[]
3. Interacting and relating with others ⁵	[]	[]	[]	[]
4. Moving about and manipulating objects ⁶	[]	[]	[]	[]
5. Caring for himself ⁷	[]	[]	[]	[]
6. Health and physical wellbeing ⁸	[]	[]	[]	[]

B. Does the child demonstrate medically documented persistence of any of the following:

	Yes	No	Not Evaluated
1. Developmental arrest, delay or regression	[]	[]	[]
2. Disorientation to time and place	[]	[]	[]
3. Memory impairment, either short term (inability to learn new information), intermediate, or long term (inability to remember information that was known sometime in the past)	[]	[]	[]
4. Perceptual or thinking disturbance (e.g., hallucinations, delusions, illusions or paranoid thinking)	[]	[]	[]
5. Disturbance in personality (e.g., apathy, hostility)	[]	[]	[]
6. Disturbance in mood (e.g., mania, depression)	[]	[]	[]
7. Emotional lability (e.g., sudden crying)	[]	[]	[]
8. Impairment of impulse control, e.g., disinhibited social behavior, explosive temper outbursts)	[]	[]	[]
9. Impairment of cognitive function, as measured by clinically timely standardized psychological testing	[]	[]	[]
10. Disturbance of concentration, attention, or judgment	[]	[]	[]

- C. For children **ages 1 to 2**, please rate any delays in the child's development in the areas listed below. If there are developmental delays, please rate the child's current development as being two-thirds, one-half, or one-third of the development expected of a non-impaired child of the same age.

	No Delay	Two-thirds of Normal Development	One-half of Normal Development	One-third of Normal Development
1. Gross or fine motor development	[]	[]	[]	[]
2. Cognitive/communicative function	[]	[]	[]	[]
3. Social function	[]	[]	[]	[]

- D. For children **ages 3 to 17**, please rate the level of impairment in the following categories (as documented by medical findings, including consideration of historical and other information from parents or other individuals with knowledge of the child, and the results of appropriate standardized tests):

	Not Significantly Limited	Moderately Limited	Markedly Limited
1. Age-appropriate cognitive/communicative function	[]	[]	[]
2. Age-appropriate social functioning	[]	[]	[]
3. Age-appropriate personal functioning	[]	[]	[]
4. Maintaining concentration, persistence or pace	[]	[]	[]

¹ A “marked” limitation interferes seriously with the child’s ability to independently initiate, sustain, or complete activities. The level of interference required to justify a “marked” rating may be achieved when the impairment(s) limits only one activity or when the interactive and cumulative effects of the impairment(s) limit several activities.

² An “extreme” limitation interferes *very* seriously with the child’s ability to independently initiate, sustain, or complete activities. The level of interference required to justify an “extreme” rating may be achieved when the impairment(s) limits only one activity or when the interactive and cumulative effects of the impairment(s) limit several activities. However, an “extreme limitation” does not necessarily mean a total lack or loss of ability to function.

³ “Acquiring and using information” refers to how well the child acquires or learns information, and how well the child uses the information he has learned. For example, children limited in this area might: not understand words about space (“in” or “under”), size (“big” or “little”) or time (“morning” or “night”); have difficulties remembering important things learned in school the day before; or have difficulties solving math problems.

⁴ “Attending and completing tasks” refers to how well the child is able to focus and maintain his attention, and how well he begins, carries through and finishes activities, including the pace of performance and ease of changing activities. For example, children limited in this area might: be easily startled or distracted; fail to complete, or be slow to focus on, activities of interest, become easily frustrated and give up on tasks; or require extra supervision to remain engaged in an activity.

⁵ “Interacting and relating with others” refers to how well the child initiates and sustains emotional connections with others, develops and uses the language of his community, cooperates with others, complies with rules, responds to criticism, and respects and takes care of the possessions of others. For example, children limited in this are might: have no close friends; have no friends that are their age; have difficulty communicating with others; or have difficulty speaking intelligibly or with adequate fluency.

⁶ “Moving about and manipulating objects” refers to how well the child moves his body from one place to another and how he moves or manipulates things. For example, children limited in this area might: experience muscle weakness, joint stiffness or sensory loss that interferes with motor activities; have difficulties coordinating gross motor movements (bending, kneeling, crawling, or running) or fine motor movements (gripping or grasping objects); or have poor hand-eye coordination when using things such as a pencil or scissors.

⁷ “Caring for himself” refers to how well the child maintains a healthy emotional and physical state. For example, children limited in this are might: not dress or bathe themselves appropriately for their age; engage in self-injurious behavior or ignore safety rules; or demonstrate disturbance in sleep or eating patterns.

⁸ “Health and physical well being” refers to the cumulative physical effects of physical or mental impairments (and their associated treatments or therapies) not considered in the domain regarding “Moving about and manipulating objects.” For example, children limited in this area might: suffer from weakness, dizziness, fatigue or somatic complaints such as seizures or headaches; have limitations in functioning because of treatment such as chemotherapy or surgeries; or be medically fragile and need intensive medical care.