

Some services we provide

We have been providing Expert Witness assessments and reports for over 30 years. We carry out assessments and provide reports for Court, working in a range of settings including the individual's home, their solicitor's office, prisons and Young Offenders' Institutions. Where necessary, we can appear in Court to give oral evidence in support of our assessments and report.

During the course of our work we have built up expertise in:

- The effects of developmental difficulties, intellectual skills and mental health on capacity at the time of alleged offences
- How Police Interviews are undertaken and a client's understanding of the Interview Caution and questioning
- Capacity to participate in the legal process including Fitness to Plead, instruct, give evidence and understand Court proceedings
- The psychological needs of children, young people and disabled people when they are involved in Court proceedings
- Special Measures in Court including the need for support from an Intermediary
- Assessment of risk using established measures such as the Schedule for Assessment of Violence and Risk in Youth (SAVRY)

Tel: 0844 357 8306

Information leaflets available include:

Medico-Legal Assessment & Reporting

Employment Matters
Personal Injury
Criminal Justice
Child & Family
Special Educational Needs (SEND)
Integrated Assessment (Assessment and reporting by a team of practitioners)

Individual Assessment & Reporting:

Children and young people
Adult learners FE & HE
Adults who have Learning Disabilities
Special Educational Needs (SEND)
Adults in Employment
Family and Parenting Issues
Matrix Assessment (Lower cost, group based, multi-professional assessment sessions)

We can send you printed copies of any of our leaflets by post. You can download Adobe Acrobat (pdf) versions of all our leaflets from our website to print yourself.

Contact us now to discuss your needs:

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Email: welcome@psychologist.co.uk
Web: psychologist.co.uk



The
British
Psychological
Society

Criminal Justice

Expert Witness Assessments Reports



Lucem Assessment
0844 357 8306
psychologist.co.uk

Criminal Justice

We are able to prepare Expert Witness reports about people's functioning and presentation. We can assess the likely effects of circumstances and events on their capacity and how disabilities may have affected them.

We offer a free brief telephone consultation service to help identify those people who are felt likely to be vulnerable or appear to have difficulties when they are arrested and interviewed.

We report on the communication needs and capacity of all participants in the legal process, especially at Court and when questioned.

Where appropriate, our report will include conclusions about the client's capacity to participate, especially when instructing their solicitor, Fitness to Plead, the need for Special Measures at trial and how they are likely to perform under cross-examination.

We constantly seek to improve our service using an evidence-based practice approach, developing new tools and approaches where appropriate. Our team of practitioners undertake Continuous Professional Development (CPD) relevant to our work as Expert Witnesses and practitioners.

Assessment

Our team is experienced in carrying out assessments and producing reports for use in the legal system. We provide a full profile on the development and functioning of clients, especially those with additional learning needs.

- Pre-sentence reporting on relevant background issues and potential outcomes
- Sexual Knowledge and understanding of relationships, boundaries and expectations
- Understanding of the alleged offence, their arrest, the Interview Caution and other legal and Court processes

The approaches and procedures we use are based on current research and best practice, and are suitable for use in Court and other criminal justice settings.

Where appropriate we will see the client in surroundings familiar to them such as their home, school or community locations.

Our team members are registered with several expert witness directories and registers, as well as with the British Psychological Society (BPS) the Health Professions Council (HPC) and other appropriate regulatory bodies.

We can provide edited versions of our reports to help the client achieve success in the future.

Outcomes

We prepare our reports thoroughly, based on in-depth assessment and evidence, gathering information from as wide a range of sources as possible. Each report is tailored for its particular purpose. We address issues concerning the mental health, functioning and needs of the individual at each stage of the legal process and beyond.

- Capacity to participate in the alleged event, to instruct, to plead and to offer evidence in Court
- Witness reliability, understanding of events and processes and 'Achieving Best Evidence' assessment
- Cognitive emotional and behavioural functioning, disability and mental health
- Assessments of suggestibility, compliance, effort and vulnerability
- Assessments of risk of re-offending and suitability for intervention and other programmes post sentencing
- Disposal and post-sentencing strategies and arrangements
- Special Measures, use of Intermediaries and other support in Court
- Mental Health treatment, intervention and support programmes
- Liaison with Youth Offending, Probation and other support and reporting services