

IDENTIFYING CLIENTS REQUIRING EVALUATION FOR GUARDIANSHIP

Key Elements

- Age of client
- Previous level of functioning (self and others report)
- Current level of functioning
- Brain injury history (TBI, stroke, etc.)
- Availability of previous medical reports (diagnoses, test results)

“Dementia”

- Neurocognitive Disorders
 - Criteria
 - a significant decline in one or more cognitive domains, compared to your previous abilities
 - the cognitive change impairs your independence in daily life, such as paying bills, managing money, or taking medications
 - the cognitive change does not exclusively occur as part of a delirium — a sudden state of confusion
 - the cognitive decline cannot be better explained by another mental health condition
 - Mild vs. Major
 - Common symptoms
 - Types/Causes
 - Alzheimer’s Disease
 - Lewy Body Dementia
 - Parkinson’s Disease
 - Huntington’s Disease
 - TBI, stroke, vascular disease, medication/substance use, frontotemporal lobe degeneration
 - Medical Diagnosis
 - Brain scan, MRI, CT
 - Neurology evaluation (especially with movement disorders)

Assessing for Functioning

Mental Status Exam

- Questions about person, place, time, purpose
- Short term memory function

Evaluation for Guardianship

Process

- Review of any medical records
- Clinical history with client and family member/caregiver, formal mental status exam, observation, Adaptive Behavior assessment

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