

***Important Information About
Your Neuropsychological Evaluation
Related to Competency and Guardianship***

I am a ***neuropsychologist***. My area of specialty is understanding how certain medical problems may be affecting a person's mental abilities such as memory, thinking skills, decision making, etc.

As you may know, there seems to be some concern about your ability to manage your own affairs. To help determine if this might be the case, a person known as a *Guardian ad Litem* (a temporary guardian) has been assigned to help review your situation and make suggestions to the lawyers and/or judge who will be looking over your situation.

I have been asked by your Guardian ad Litem to perform an evaluation of your mental abilities as it relates to how you are currently able to manage your affairs, both personal and financial. He or she thinks this information will be important in understanding your situation, including your abilities to make good decisions and avoid being taken advantage of by people around you.

I will talk with you and others involved in your case, as well as give various tests of these abilities to see how you are doing compared to healthy persons of your same age.

Please understand that I have no stake in the outcome of your case. I am a neutral party in the matter. It is not my job to decide if you are competent to manage your affairs. Only a judge can decide this. My job is to provide information the judge might find useful when deciding whether or not you might need a guardian.

This evaluation may reveal that you are perfectly capable of making decisions about your money and health care. However, there is also a risk my evaluation might reveal problems in your thinking or emotions that suggest you might need a Guardian to help you with these matters. The tests I give will help clear up any confusion or disagreements about your abilities.

Your Guardian ad Litem will be billed for my services. I charge by the number of hours it takes me to complete my evaluation. My fee is \$175.00 per hour. I usually spend between 3 and 6 hours on these types of evaluations. Travel time is added to this fee if I need to come to your residence or hospital. The Guardian ad Litem may pay my fees directly, or have them taken out of your account.

I cannot bill Medicare or other insurances for this service, as this service is at the request of the court and not for medical purposes. Also, billing Medicare might mean that I would be required to diagnosis you with a mental disease, and you may not wish to have such a diagnosis in your medical record. In any case, you do not need to worry about paying me when you come to see me. Your Guardian ad Litem will take care of these details.

I look forward to meeting you. Here are some suggestions to help make your appointment go well:

- Try to be well-rested and ready to concentrate.
- Dress comfortably.
- Eat a light, healthy snack before the appointment.
- Unless necessary to your health, try to avoid any medicines that make you sleepy or confused at least 12 hours before the appointment.
- If you regularly take medicines for pain control, keep taking these as usual.
- Do not drink alcohol for at least 12 hours before the appointment.
- **Be sure to bring hearing aids and reading glasses**, if you need them. You will need to hear and see things as clearly as possible.
- If you are unsure why you are coming for the appointment or confused about your symptoms, bring a trusted relative or friend who can help describe your situation.
- Bring a list of all your current medicines and doses. Include over-the-counter medicines and herbal remedies as well.