



CHECKLIST FOR JUVELINE COMPETENCY EVALUATIONS

Minor's Identifying Information:

A description of the youth's age, gender identification, grade, living arrangement, and any other relevant information.

- Interview the minor
- Review all available records provided, including, but not limited to, medical, education, special education, probation, child welfare, mental health, regional center, court records, and any other available relevant information.
- Consult with minor's counsel
- Consult with probation officer
- Consult with others who provided information to the court regarding the minor's competence or lack thereof
- Gather a developmental history of the minor.
- Administer age-appropriate testing specific to the issue of competence unless facts of the case render such testing inappropriate or unnecessary.
- Assess the minor for level of cooperation with the assessment. If the evaluator finds that cooperation is inadequate or significantly uncertain, the evaluator should consider halting the evaluation and forwarding this information to the parties. Issues such as a marked discrepancy between previous academic or intellectual testing and present effort, lack of effort, or refusal may be indicators of inadequate cooperation.
- Answer the following questions "yes" or "no" where possible and provide the rationale for the opinion:
 - a. Does the minor have a mental illness?
 - b. Does the minor have a mental disorder?
 - c. Does the minor have a developmental disability?
 - d. Is the minor developmentally immature?
 - e. Is the minor able to assist his/her attorney in the conduct of a defense in a rational manner?
 - f. Does the minor have a rational as well as factual understanding of the nature of the charges or proceedings against him or her?
 - g. Is the minor competent to stand trial?

- Summary: A concise summary of competency findings should be provided.

If the minor is deemed "not competent", please also include the following information:

- Is the minor likely to attain competence in the foreseeable future if provided remediation services. Explain the basis for your opinion.
- If the minor is likely to attain competence, what remediation services will be effective given the minor's current functioning?
- What specific aspects of the minor's functioning can realistically be remediated?
- Provide a specific, detailed plan for remediation, including:
 - a. Available resources
 - b. Strategies
 - c. Interventions
 - d. Timelines
 - e. Estimation of likelihood of success