



## An independent mental capacity assessment is intended to help you demonstrate your ability to make a specific legal, health or financial decision

### What is Mental Capacity?

- This is just another way of saying 'A person's ability to make a decision'.
- It is determined by whether a person has an impairment or disturbance of the mind or brain that directly affects their ability to:

Understand relevant information

Retain relevant information

Weigh-up relevant information

Communicate their thoughts, wishes and feelings about the decision in question.

- Mental capacity is 'item specific'. For example, what a person needs to understand to decide where to live is very different to what would be needed to make a Will.
- It is also 'time specific' because someone's mental capacity can fluctuate; decline or improve depending on their mental processing at that time.

**Our level of understanding and unique court validated approach means no one knows mental capacity like we do**

### Who are TSF?

TSF Assessments are experts in the field of mental capacity assessments.

We have a strong team of experienced Mental Capacity Assessors who are either health or social care professionals, who are all recognised by the Court of Protection and the Office of the Public Guardian.

Our post-assessment reports go through a rigorous internal audit carried out by our unique Quality Monitoring Team who produce some of the most robust reports in the industry.

## What happens in a Mental Capacity Assessment?

An assessment is not about trying to catch you out. It is about showing you at your best, identifying your strengths and weaknesses and giving any support you need to be able to make the identified decision.

One of our Mental Capacity Assessors will 'meet' with you using a live video-link, using either a smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer with a webcam. We often use Zoom, WhatsApp or Teams, but will use whatever platform you prefer. We will arrange a time to suit you and suggest you pick a place where you feel comfortable.

If required, we will arrange a face-to-face assessment for you.

Your assessor will take time to put you at ease and explain exactly what they are looking for. If there is anything you don't understand, let the assessor know so they can explain it to you in a way that makes sense to you.

## Who will be there?

Whilst our preference is to see you by yourself during the assessment, you can have other people there to introduce you and help you settle in. They can also stay in close proximity, say another room, so you can call for them if you feel you need their support.

However, if you do need additional support to be with you, such as a speech and language therapist or sign interpreter, that's absolutely fine.

**We have successfully completed hundreds of assessments using live video-link for clients aged between 15-109, with wide ranging conditions and those who are deaf, blind and non-verbal**

## How long will an assessment take?

In general, you should allow 60 - 90 minutes for the assessment of one decision.

## Can I instruct you myself?

We predominantly take referrals from legal, financial or medical professionals as there is a lot of detail that we need to gather prior to an assessment. However, we also take private instructions from individuals if you have already taken some professional advice.

If you have not yet instructed someone, please contact us and we can put you in touch with recommended partners.

## What information do you need from me?

Once you have instructed a professional, they will complete one of our clear referral forms that explains what information we need - it varies depending on the type of assessment.

We use this information to help prepare questions and validate your answers provided during the assessment.

It also helps our Assessor to get to know you and identify anything extra we can do to assist you.