ED.D.

LICENSED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND FORENSIC EVALUATOR

PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

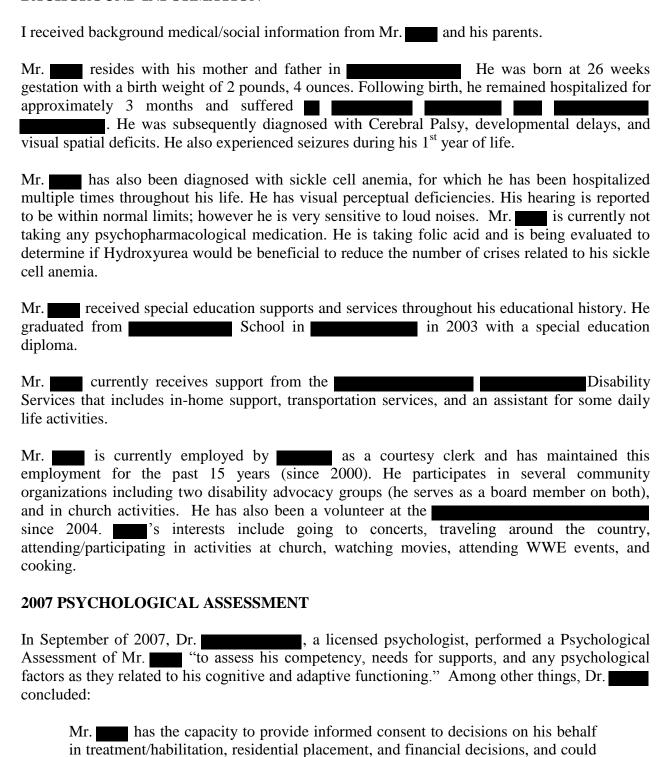
NAME: AGE: 32 years	BIRTHDATE: TEST DATE: 02/25/2015
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND OPINION	
with appropriate support, ("Mr.	ews, and review of records, it is my opinion that, ") has the capacity to make and communicate the irements of his life without the need for a third-
A checklist attached to this evaluation provide communicate decisions in several significant life	es a summary of Mr. sability to make and fe spheres.
PURPOSE OF EVALUATION	
	uation and observation to determine his functional decisions on his own, with appropriate support as
decision-makers. Mr. wants to be free from with the support of his family, friends, and other	appointed by a Court to be his legal guardians and om the guardianship and make his own decisions, ers. Mr. 's parents and older sister support his ions for himself and believe he has the capacity to a them and others.
evaluated people with disabilities' capacity to	f evaluation and observation. I have previously make decisions with appropriate support. I have vith disabilities' capacity to make decisions, with under guardianship.
EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	
interviewed coworkers and family members v	his family to receive background information; who know and interact regularly with Mr. carrying carrying

PHONE

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out his activities of daily living, interacting with people, and making decisions in the social, occupational, personal, financial, and familial life spheres.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

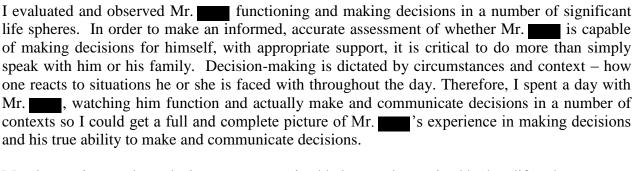


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sign a power of attorney. Care should be taken that matters are explained at a level appropriate to his understanding and that he fully understands the consequences of those decisions.

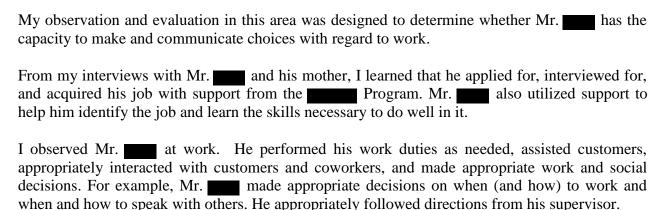
As outlined below, I concur with Dr. "'s conclusion."

EVALUATION AND OBSERVATIONS



My observations and conclusions are summarized below, and organized by key life spheres.

Employment

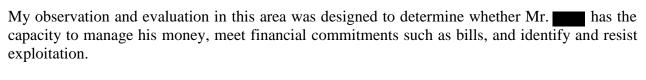


I also interviewed Mr. supervisor, who reports that Mr. is social, talkative, and that others enjoy being around him. The supervisor reports that Mr. works diligently (always moving and helping others), can clock in and out independently, and independently and appropriately requests days off and modifications to his schedule. These comments were consistent with my observations of Mr at work.

Therefore, I conclude that Mr. has the capacity to make and communicate decisions regarding work, with appropriate support.

Money Management





Mr. is able to use the banking system independently. I observed him go to the bank, cash his paycheck, count his money and properly store his money in his wallet.

From my interviews with Mr. and his family, it is clear that he understands that he has a responsibility to pay his bills and is able to pay bills himself. His mother provides support, when needed, to remind him when bills are due. She also helps him budget his money so he can pay bills and still take part in activities he enjoys. These comments are consistent with the skills I observed.

I believe that is also able to identify and resist financial exploitation with support. From my interviews, I learned that once, when he was younger, was induced to buy a five-dollar bottle of cologne from a street vendor. The purchase was out of character for him, but he was attracted by the name on the bottle Since then, is family works with him to help him understand and make decisions with regard to purchasing appropriate items and recognizing and avoiding exploitation. Since the cologne incident, he has not been induced to make similar purchases.

Therefore, I conclude that Mr. has the capacity to make and communicate decisions regarding money management, with appropriate support.

Health and Nutrition

My observation and evaluation in this area was designed to determine whether Mr. has the capacity to make decisions about where, when, and what to eat; follow a prescribed diet and/or take medicine as directed; maintain personal hygiene and dental care; make and communicate decisions regarding medical treatment; and understand consequences associated with high risk behaviors.

I observed Mr. plan his lunch menu, prepare his own food, and then wash and place plates, utensils, and other items in the dishwasher. From this observation and my interviews with and his family, I conclude that he has the capacity to make his own decisions about proper nutrition and can meet his nutrition needs.

From reports and my observation, Mr. takes his medication and dietary supplements independently, without the need for support or prompting. Therefore, I conclude that he is able to independently make decisions about and follow a prescribed diet and take medication as directed.

From my interviews with Mr. and his parents, he is able to and has conveyed concerns about his health to his parents and his medical providers. He does require some support to help him monitor his condition, but has independently informed providers of his symptoms and condition

and consented appropriately to treatment. Therefore, I conclude that he is able to make his own decisions, with support, in this area.

Finally, from my interviews with Mr. and his family, he is aware of the consequences of high-risk behavior like substance abuse, overeating, and high-risk sexual activities, and abstains from them. Therefore, I conclude that he is able to make his own, well-informed, and appropriate decisions regarding-high risk behavior.

Therefore, I conclude that Mr. has the capacity to make and communicate decisions regarding his health, nutrition, and safety, with appropriate support.

Relationships

My observation and evaluation in this area was designed to determine whether Mr. has the capacity to make decisions regarding appropriate relationships and act appropriately with friends, family, co-workers, and intimate partners; make decisions concerning adult, intimate relationships and/or marriage.

I observed Mr. interact appropriately with family, co-workers, friends, and the general public while at work and throughout his day. Mr. carried on appropriate conversations and observed appropriate social boundaries in his interaction with co-workers, family members, the bank teller, and others.

From my interviews with Mr. "s family, I learned that he is somewhat shy, but does initiate conversations and makes new friends (while observing appropriate social boundaries) effectively and appropriately. For example, has a female friend he likes to dance with at social events and acts appropriately with her in all ways. This was consistent with my observations of Mr. "s social skills and abilities."

From my observation and interviews with Mr. is family and co-workers, I conclude that he interacts very well with others in his usual environments. He does receive some support from his family and from support workers through the interaction in unfamiliar situations. However, he has shown that, with this support, he is able to make decisions regarding appropriate relationships and have appropriate social relationships, including intimate relationships.

Therefore, I conclude that Mr. has the capacity to make and communicate decisions regarding relationships, with appropriate support.

Personal Safety

My observation and evaluation in this area was designed to determine whether Mr. has the capacity to recognize safety hazards and common environmental dangers (such as traffic, sharp objects, poisonous products, etc.); to recognize when someone is or may be taking advantage of

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him, hurting him, or abusing him; and to contact an appropriate person or agency if he feels he is in danger of being exploited or abused.

I observed Mr. prepare a meal for himself, using sharp utensils and potentially dangerous appliances. He did so safely and observed appropriate safety precautions. From my interviews and observations, Mr. safely monitors his health and takes medication and dietary supplements as directed.

From my interviews, I learned that Mr. practices safe and appropriate habits in the community, as well. He arranges his own transportation to and from work, lets himself into his house appropriately, and contacts his parents to let them know he has arrived safely. He is aware that he can contact his case manager, day support workers, and advocates with questions about his supports and services. This is consistent with the abilities I observed.

From my interviews, I also learned that also practices good safety habits and has not put himself in a position to be abused, neglected, or exploited in any way (with the exception of the one cologne purchase mentioned above). This is consistent, also, with the abilities I observed.

Therefore, I conclude that he has the capacity to make personal safety decisions and see to his own personal safety, with limited support.

Community Living

My observation and evaluation in this area was designed to determine whether Mr. has the capacity to function on his own without the risk of serious harm or injury to himself; understand what is involved with managing a home safely; and access community resources and function successfully in community settings such as banks, grocery stores, the post office, etc).

Currently, Mr. lives with his parents. I observed him act appropriately and safely in his home, performing his activities of daily living, and interacting with others in a variety of community settings. From my interviews, I learned that Mr. arranges for his own transportation to and from work.

I observed Mr. being very organized and managing his day and activities consistent with a schedule. He completes his responsibilities on the job, in the community, and at home, with some support. For example, so mother helps him with budgeting and he uses post-it notes to remind him of his responsibilities and chores at home.

From my interviews, I learned that Mr. also receives some support from his parents and others when he travels to new places, largely due to his visual deficits. Because Mr. has limited visual perception, he sometimes needs support in navigating new places. He is aware of this and appropriately seeks out and uses support when it is needed. This is consistent with the abilities I observed.

Therefore, I conclude that Mr. has the capacity to make decisions, live, and function in the community effectively and safely, with support.

Personal Decision-Making

My observation and evaluation in this area was designed to determine whether Mr has the capacity to understand and communicate consent to legal decisions; identify people who can support him when he needs decision-making support; vote; and understand the consequences of making unsafe or unlawful decisions.

I observed Mr. acting appropriately and safely in a variety of home and community-based locations and situations. He saw to his personal safety needs and avoided any dangerous situations.

From my interviews, I learned that Mr. is his own primary decision-maker with regard to the services and supports he receives, including legal supports. He does receive support from his family to help him fully understand the decisions he must make, but with that support he makes his own decisions. This is consistent with the abilities I observed.

It is worth noting that Dr. and 's 2007 evaluation specifically found that Mr. has the capacity to understand, consent to, and complete legal decisions and documents such as a power of attorney if he receives the support he needs. Based upon my observation and interviews, I concur with Dr. so opinion.

From my interviews, I learned that Mr. is a registered voter and has made his own decisions about who and what to vote for.

Mr. identified his family as his primary supporters when it comes to decision —making. His family members stated that they are ready, willing, and able to provide this support and that they believe that, with this support, he can make his own decisions without the need for a guardian. His family has demonstrated both the willingness and capacity to provide support. With their support he has learned to make his own, informed and appropriate decisions. These include an awareness of the consequences of inappropriate or dangerous decisions. His family has worked with him to know to avoid inappropriate or dangerous situations and people.

Therefore, I conclude that Mr. has the capacity to make informed, safe, and appropriate personal decisions, with support.

Determining and Directing Services and Supports

My observation and evaluation in this area was designed to determine whether Mr. has the capacity to decide and direct the services and supports he needs or wants and the ability to appropriately communicate his decisions to family members, friends and others.

I observed Mr. make and communicate decisions in a variety of home and community-based settings. He interacted and communicated effectively and appropriately with family members, co-workers, friends, professionals, and customers.



From interviews, I learned that Mr.

was the primary decision-maker on his Individual Service Plan with the

Disability Services. Throughout that process, Mr.

identified the services, supports, and issues that were most important to him. He made the final decision to approve and sign the plan and his consent was accepted by the

Throughout that process, he received support from his family, case manager, and support to fully understand the process, but was responsible for making final decisions on the information to include and services to request and accept. This is consistent with the abilities I observed.

Therefore, I conclude that Mr. has the capacity to make and communicate informed and effective decisions regarding his services and supports.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon my observations, assessment, interviews, and review of records, I conclude that, with appropriate support, Mr. has the capacity to make and communicate decisions necessary to meet the essential requirements of his life. To that end, I do not believe he requires a third-party to make decisions <u>for</u> him. Rather, supporters like his family, friends, and others can work <u>with</u> him to make and communicate decisions—as they have for some time.

My observations and interviews show that Mr. has developed a skill for making his own decisions, with appropriate support when needed. Mr. 's ability to make decisions in a number of situations, and his ability to recognize areas where he needs support, indicates that he has good, practical Fluid Reasoning and Nonverbal Visual Spatial skills. Fluid Reasoning is the ability to solve problems using inductive or deductive reasoning. Visual-Spatial Processing is the ability to see patterns, relationships, spatial orientations, or the "Gestalt"—the whole among diverse pieces. These relative strengths indicate that Mr. is able to retain and re-use skills he has previously learned and use them to understand and address new situations. Mr. will be able to use his abilities to address and recognize patterns between the situations he faces and others he has faced and apply previously learned skills to them.

These skills and abilities indicate that when Mr. is consistently provided concrete skills and strategies for problem solving, he can understand, learn, and retain information and skills and repeat them when needed. For example, the way Mr. is family works with him to budget and complete activities of daily living will help him make appropriate decisions in these and other areas moving forward as his strengths and abilities will empower him to apply those skills in other situations.

I observed Mr. demonstrate his strengths and abilities in a variety of settings, including his home, work, and community. Mr. made good, consistent, and appropriate decisions and interacted appropriately with family, friends, co-workers, the general public, and professionals. His actions and decision-making in such a variety of settings and life spheres indicates that he is able to make decisions, accessing appropriate support when needed, that people are called upon to make during their days and lives. My observations of Mr. skills and abilities were consistent with his abilities described by those who know him best and interact with him on a daily basis.

Thus, I conclude that Mr. has the capacity to make and communicate decisions, to call upon his support network when needed and appropriate, and to apply his abilities in both familiar and new situations. In addition, his demonstrated skills and abilities support the conclusion that Mr. is decision-making skills will continue to improve over time if he is given the opportunity to make decisions for himself and the support he needs to do so.
I recommend that Mr. continue to be given support that allows him to use both visual and verbal learning skills. This support should include receiving information through explanation, examples, and the opportunity to ask questions. For example, if Mr. needs to decide whether or not to sign a contract, the purpose and terms of the contract should be fully explained to him. He should have the opportunity to ask questions and, if needed, information should be repeated. Explanations, in appropriate language, should include the reason for the contract and why he is being asked to sign. Examples of contracts and why such a contract has been signed by others may also be helpful. Difficult words or "legalistic" phrases should be explained to him in straightforward language, using real-world examples, preferably relating to prior events in his life. This type of support will allow Mr. to call upon his experience and strengths and use them to understand the issue before him to make an informed decision of whether or not to sign the contract.
Finally, I believe Mr. "'s family deserves special credit and their work with him special mention. Even though they have the legal authority to make decisions for Mr. they have taken the time and made the effort to ensure that he has developed the capacity to make his own decisions. They support his desire to be free from guardianship and to make his own life decisions, with support.
Because Mr. 's family has been so supportive, he has developed the ability to make his own decisions and safely live, work, and function in the community. Mr. is a conscientious young man, well-organized, and well-aware of his personal and safety needs. He is also aware that he does need assistance in some areas and knows to seek it out and rely upon it when necessary.
Therefore, like Dr. before me, I conclude that, with appropriate support, Mr. has "the
capacity to provide informed consent to decisions on his behalf in treatment/habilitation, residential placement, and financial decisions, and could sign a power of attorney."

Ed.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Forensic Evaluator
Assistant Professor,