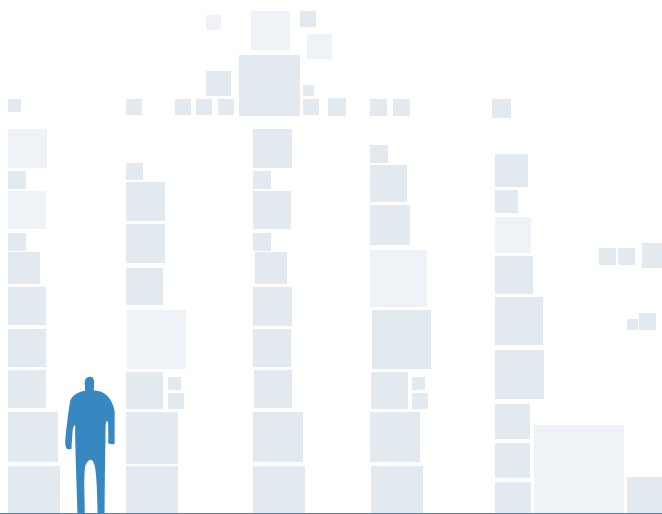




# MEDICO-LEGAL SERVICES

OVERVIEW



## INTRODUCTION

CPA has a dedicated team of Chartered Clinical and Counselling Psychologists who provide medico-legal assessments, reports and expert witness testimony throughout the UK. We also deliver effective psychological treatment when this is recommended as part of a medico-legal process.

The instructions we receive are wide in scope and encompass most areas of law, including personal injury, criminal, employment, family and immigration.

## PERSONAL INJURY

In the area of personal injury litigation, the law of psychological harm has developed greatly in recent years. However, fundamental distinctions are still drawn between recoverable psychological injuries and symptoms that do not result in damages.

CPA recognises that for litigators and their insurer clients, a precise diagnosis at the earliest possible stage is essential, as well as a clear understanding of an individual's circumstances and mental state pre- and post-injury so that an accurate future prognosis can be established.

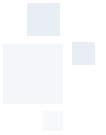
Successful instructions have included assessment of:

- Post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems in an individual who was assaulted
- Psychological well-being of an individual who was attacked by a police dog
- Psychological impact on an individual of being detained under the Mental Health Act
- Post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans of armed conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Psychological impact on a minor of witnessing his father being attacked with a weapon

### WHY WE ARE DIFFERENT

- We have one of the lowest 'call-to-court rates' of any psychology practice due to the exceptional quality of our reports
- We guarantee a rapid response and turnaround, typically completing reports within 2-3 weeks of initial instructions
- We accept all appropriate instructions, from legal aid cases to high profile class actions
- We allocate all new instructions to our in-house psychologists on the basis of their relevant experience, rather than simply who is available at the time
- We respond flexibly to the needs of our clients, demonstrated by our 50:50 ratio of defence and prosecution instructions





## CRIMINAL

In the criminal justice system, mental health problems can serve as important mitigating factors. As well as influencing the actions of an individual during the commission of an offence, mental health difficulties may also affect their ability to provide reliable evidence or testify in court.

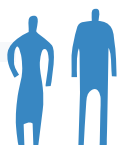
CPA provides comprehensive assessments that inform the court of the extent to which mental health problems, underlying personality disturbance or cognitive impairment may have influenced a defendant's actions. Where relevant, the identification of malingering or the feigning of symptoms of psychological distress is an important aspect of this process.

Successful instructions from parties representing prosecution and defence have included assessment of:

- Mental health and personality of an individual who was unable to provide a sample following their arrest for driving while under the influence of illegal substances
- Psychological impact on an individual of a serious physical assault
- Post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems in an individual alleged to have committed attempted murder
- Cognitive functioning and risk of re-offending of an individual charged with indecent exposure
- Mental health and personality of an individual who committed arson
- Malingering in relation to mental health problems in an individual alleged to have claimed incapacity benefit fraudulently

### OUR TEAM

- Highly qualified psychologists who are chartered by the British Psychological Society and registered with the Health Professions Council
- Directly employed by CPA to ensure quality and consistency, meaning we do not need to rely on associates
- Available at very short notice at any location in the UK
- Registered as Expert Witnesses
- Utilise an extensive battery of standardised psychometric assessment measures that are widely recognised and have proven validity and reliability
- Skilled in assessing a wide range of specialist areas, including cognitive functioning, personality disorder, family and parenting ability, forensic and risk assessment, and malingering



## FAMILY

Although the breakdown of family relationships is devastating for everyone involved, the negative impact on children's development, emotional well-being and ability to form attachments is particularly profound. Minimising distress and protecting the interests of children requires a clear understanding of their emotional needs and, where necessary, an evaluation of the suitability of those caring for them.

CPA undertakes comprehensive assessments of the psychological well-being of children and their relationships with the adults involved in their care on behalf of social services departments, parents, guardians and professional carers.

Successful instructions have included assessment of:

- Relationship between a child and his maternal grandmother to facilitate care proceedings
- Suitability of a residential care service for a young person with emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Impact of a mother's mental health problems on her children and her long-term suitability to provide care
- Child's mental health following prolonged parental abuse, with a view to determining the most appropriate future placements

## IMMIGRATION

Mental health problems can affect the capacity of people to cope with or understand the legal processes involved in obtaining leave to remain in the UK, whilst also interfering with their ability to form social relationships and integrate into a new society. Under these circumstances, deporting an individual back to their country of origin or restricting their access to appropriate care services in the UK may constitute a breach of their human rights.

CPA has specialist Clinical Psychologists who have considerable experience of working with refugees and asylum seekers, using interpreters when appropriate. This has resulted in CPA being appointed the sole instructees of the Treasury Solicitors Department for a government class action involving asylum seekers.

Successful instructions have included assessment of:

- Post-traumatic stress disorder and the psychological impact on an individual of being returned to their country of origin
- The level of understanding of an individual with language difficulties and mental health problems
- The impact on an individual's psychological well-being of events that occurred in a detention centre in the UK
- Provision of expert witness testimony at immigration tribunals



**Contact us today to discuss your instructions.**

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