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Information about Your Capacity, Guardianship, or Vulnerable Adult Protection Order Examination

Who Are You? My name is Dr. Steve Meharg. I am a Neuropsychologist. My specialty is testing how certain medical problems can affect a person, including their thinking, memory, and decision-making skills.

Why am I Here? Someone is concerned you might have problems with your memory or other mental skills that could make it hard for you to make financial or legal decisions, sign contracts, manage your affairs, or make it easy for others to take advantage of you. I have nothing to prove, nor do I take sides in the matter. It is important we work together so you can do your best.

Who Sent Me? A judge, lawyer, caseworker, Guardian ad Litem, or a family member has asked me to see you. In some cases, the Court asked this person to recommend any services you might need. Since they are not a doctor, they need some like me to provide an evaluation. I have done many of these evaluations.

What Will Happen? My job is to talk with you and test your thinking skills to see if you have any unusual problems that might suggest you need help, protection, or may be unable to make decisions about your money and/or healthcare. A guardian (sometimes called a conservator) is like a personal assistant who can make sure your money is protected and bills are managed, can help you with doctor visits, or help make decisions if you get too sick to speak for yourself. Such a person does not have the power to do these things until a judge says they can. But first, we need to see if this is even needed or a good idea. It may not be necessary, and there may be easier ways to make sure your welfare is protected.

We will talk for a while before doing any tests. I will ask lots of questions to get to know you. Some questions may be personal, so let me know if there are things you wish not to talk about. I will then give you some tests of your mental abilities. You will not be getting any treatment or counseling, and we will try to get everything done in one visit. Talking and testing could take a few hours. We usually only have one chance to

meet, so we need to get everything done. It is important that you give your best effort on all tests, so let me know whenever you need a break.

What are the Possible Risks and Benefits to Me? These tests allow us to see how you are *really* doing, and not just what someone thinks or says about you. I am happy to explain that you are doing OK and can probably manage things on your own. The tests may show you have some mild problems but are still capable of managing your affairs. The tests may show more serious problems and that you might benefit from help managing your affairs or protecting you from scammers or thieves. While the goal is to protect your money and welfare, the trade-off may be to reduce the amount of control you have over these things. Only a Judge can make that decision; not me. That's why we want to take the issue seriously, work together so you can do your best, and do good assessments in the right way.

I will try to make the process as comfortable as possible. Pain can result from sitting at a table for a long time. Rest and stretch breaks can be taken at any time. These tests can be tiring, frustrating, and embarrassing. Some tests are easy, and some will be hard. You are only expected to try your best and not worry about getting everything right. You do not have to get 100% on these tests to still be fine, so do not worry if the tests seem hard or it seems you are not doing well.

Who is Paying for This? The person asking me to see you will be billed for my services. This person will help coordinate payment from the party responsible. No payment will be collected today. Medical insurance does not pay for this service.

Is What We Talk About Private? No, but only people that need to know will see this information. My report will go to the professionals and judge involved in this case. While this may not apply to you, other reasons privacy could be broken include if someone tells me they are being abused, or if they have plans to hurt themselves or someone else.

When we meet, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this information.

Before we begin the visit, there is some information I need to collect about you, followed by having you sign that you read and understand the information above. Signing the paper does *not* mean you agree with having to see me or that you need a guardian. It just means you were given this information and are willing to continue with the visit. You can have someone help you fill out the form on the next page, if needed.

Some Basic Information About You

Your Name: _____

Home Address: _____

_____, _____, _____
city State Zip

Age: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Phone: _____

Marital Status: [] single [] married [] divorced [] widowed

Who is your current physician? _____

City: _____

*Please plan to provide me a list of your medications, if you know them.
Also, be sure to bring any eyeglasses or hearing aids you might use, and have at least a
light healthy snack before coming to make sure you can do your best.*

Place to Sign

*I have been informed about the reasons I am here, what will happen, risks and benefits,
fees, and limits of privacy. I agree to see Dr. Meharg and cooperate with the
examination.*

Signature

Date

Witness (relationship, e.g., spouse, child, friend, POA, etc.)

Date

Stephen S. Meharg, Ph.D.

Date