

Competency to Stand Trial Process

Title 77, Chapter 15

Updated 7/6/22

Competency Evaluation Factors

Per Subsection 77-15-5(5), a forensic evaluator shall consider and address the following factors when determining competency:

- The defendant's ability to:
 - o rationally and factually understand the criminal proceedings against the defendant;
 - consult with the defendant's legal counsel with a reasonable degree of rational understanding in order to assist in the defense;
 - o understand the charges or allegations against the defendant;
 - o communicate facts, events, and states of mind;
 - understand the range of possible penalties associated with the charges or allegations against the defendant;
 - o engage in reasoned choice of legal strategies and options;
 - o understand the adversarial nature of the proceedings against the defendant;
 - o manifest behavior sufficient to allow the court to proceed; and
 - testify relevantly, if applicable;
- the impact of the mental disorder or intellectual disability, if any, on the nature and quality of the defendant's relationship with counsel;
- if psychoactive medication is currently being administered:
 - whether the medication is necessary to maintain the defendant's competency; and
 - whether the medication may have an effect on the defendant's demeanor,
 affect, and ability to participate in the proceedings; and
- whether the defendant is exhibiting false or exaggerated physical or psychological symptoms relevant to the defendant's capacity to stand trial.

