

Karin D. Huffer, m.s., m.f.t.

Nevada State Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Specialist In Post Trauma Stress and Legal Abuse Syndrome
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October 2, 2002

FAX - 928-752-1886

Re: Scott Huminski

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. Huminski has engaged my services to assist him through a cumulatively stressful experience with the legal system. It appears that Scott meets the criteria for either Posttraumatic Stress Disorder or a disorder of extreme stress not otherwise specified.

I have reviewed his medical records and find that he is experiencing many physical symptoms that appear to be emotionally related. For those suffering traumatic stress as a result of the legal system, medications have been helpful, especially Zoloft, in my experience. Sometimes certain medications exacerbate memory problems and create other side effects that negatively affect the person's effectiveness in the court. This period of time is a tightrope of symptoms and finding medications that provide some relief without negative side effects.

I am happy to communicate with any physician in an effort to best serve Mr. Huminski.

Sincerely,


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Date: October 21, 2002

Patient: Scott Huminski

ADA Summary and Accommodation Plan

Title II of the ADA, located in the United States Code at 42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-34. This law provides for accommodations for those suffering any physical impairment to prevent discrimination.

Summary of evaluation data including: structured interview, testing, mental health status examination, medical records, social and cultural background, anecdotal records and any other relevant source. Value is placed on obtaining a second opinion and even a third in some instances.

Specific Assessment tools:

MMPI-2 subscale, Huffer, 1995
Debriefing case history form
Impact of Trauma Rating Scale
PTSD Symptom Scale
Traumatic Antecedents Questionnaire

History and Presenting Problem:

Scott Huminski is one of a growing population of clients that is suffering from severe traumatic stress with a psycholegal base. Current research over the past twenty years has shown that Posttraumatic Stress Disorder is experienced by one out of five American citizens. Most of these cases stem from physical threat to life; however, more and more the medical community is recognizing that the same symptoms occur when cumulative trauma is experienced placing the individual in profound jeopardy. Nothing jeopardizes or terrorizes a person more than involvement with a powerful legal system

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that is not respecting and responding to the rights that Americans count on for their sense of safety and security.

Scott Huminski's case is classic in that he was targeted by law enforcement officials for exercising his right to criticize the decisions of a certain judge in a peaceful manner. He is a person with strong convictions, better than average intelligence, and the courage to stand up for his beliefs. Mr. Huminski has been an active citizen who sincerely believes that America was founded on and is preserved by debate, dialogue, and appropriate protest.

Against a backdrop of "political correctness" and bending of values that Mr. Huminski holds dear, Mr. Huminski is winding up isolated, accused of criminal activity and suffering progressive losses. His emotions having turned inward affecting his health. He has suffered a host of stress related symptoms from elevated blood pressure, tremor, anxiety, depression to Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.

The attached articles describe the effects of trauma on the brain, causing emotional reactions and amnesic responses. In fact the very areas of the brain that are affected prevent the sufferers from easily and clearly dealing with their cases in a court of law. The legal system forces the traumatized person to relive the most painful memories repeatedly for years on end.

Grieving is a critical component in those who suffer from PTSD from psycholegal trauma. In Mr. Huminski's case, he has sustained the loss of his business, his home, his career and chance for recapturing past skills, his good health, energy and enthusiasm toward his future and new ventures, and trust in those in professional and official positions.

Diagnostic Impression

Mr. Huminski is a bright person who is intellectually very capable. Posttraumatic Stress Disorder will cause him to appear confused and numb when faced with stressful reminders of the traumatic events. Mr. Huminski will be struggling in court with an invisible barrier clearly placing him at a disadvantage. The adversarial system allows such victims to be attacked as part of the court process. Mr. Huminski will use avoidant and amnesic responses at critical moments. This is his brain's path to survival when faced with unbearable traumatic events. Court without accommodations will



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simply deny access.

DSM IV Diagnosis:

Axis I	309.81 Posttraumatic Stress Disorder 309.28 Adjustment Disorder with Anxiety and Depression
Axis II	none
Axis III	Dermatitis, insomnia, tremor
Axis IV	Involvement with legal system, economic devastation Loss of personal and economic assets to rebuild future
GAF	Prior to litigation 85 Today, 55-60

Mental Status Examination

Scott Huminski is cooperative in attitude. His affect is appropriate with some numbness when he speaks of the traumatic events. His mood vacillates from anxious to depressed. He reports feeling a tightness in his chest on occasion. He has fears that feel phobic when he sees a member of law enforcement. His memory is intact with some interference with short term memory. Mr. Huminski appears to have above average intelligence and is educated past four years of college with majors in math and science. He has some tremor in his hands and reports nightmares two to four times per month. Mr. Huminski denies substance abuse now or ever. He also denies any previous problems with the law. Mr. Huminski is an intelligent individual with a severe problem area. His disability will be trauma specific.

Major life activities affected:

When traumatic memory is triggered;

- ability to think and concentrate
- ability to remember traumatic details
- ability to decide
- ability to act
- ability to report
- ability to choose from a number of options - reverts to rules and formulas

Daily:

- ability to defend himself naturally
- ability to rest and re-energize

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- ability to address current needs without intrusive and numbing interference.
- ability to manage power differential in the face of jeopardy
- ability to focus

Reasonable Accommodations Needed to Ensure Access

Adaptive devices:

none

Special equipment:

Video taping of all court events for review with advocate or counselor to ensure no loss of data

Audio taping of court events and meetings not video taped

Alteration of procedures:

Mr. Huminski must be allowed an advocate in the courtroom.

The court needs to allow extended deadlines.

Plain English used during court proceedings avoiding legalese with an opportunity for Mr. Huminski to review and to clarify any trauma-related terminology.

The National Judicial College in 1991 recommended a universal design that provides for a judicial system that meets the needs of all persons, including those with impairments. Their study concluded that access to the court process must not be denied to the impaired or elderly due to invisible barriers.

Sincerely,



Karin Huffer, M.F.T.