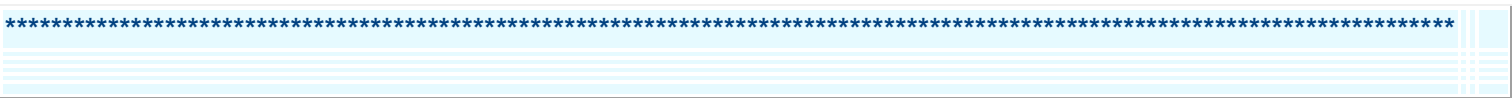


Department of Social and Health Services  
Community Services Division  
**Social Services Manual**

Revision: # 163  
Category: **Mental Status Exam Guidelines**  
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**Summary**

Removed this page. MSE guidelines are outlined in the CSD Mental Incapacity Evaluation (MIE) contract.



~~**Mental Status Exam Guidelines**~~

~~**Revised December 12, 2011**~~

~~A mental status exam (MSE) must accompany all mental health reports for determination of Disability based benefits. A MSE must be included with the submission of DSHS form 13-865.~~

~~A mini-mental status exam (MMSE) **cannot** be substituted for a MSE.~~

~~**MSE GUIDELINES**~~

~~Every MSE must include observation detail for each of the categories listed below. Individual questions may be altered and additional questions may be added:~~

-	<b>Examples of observation detail:</b>
<b>General Appearance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><del>• Well groomed or unkempt?</del></li><li><del>• What is the person wearing?</del></li><li><del>• Are clothes appropriate for weather and situation?</del></li></ul>

-	<b>Examples of observation detail:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of psychomotor agitation or retardation? Give examples.</li> </ul>
<b>Attitude and Behavior</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the person cooperative, irritable, belligerent etc.?</li> <li>• Is there any indication of malingering or factitious behavior? Explain.</li> </ul>
<b>Mood and Affect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the person describe his or her mood?</li> <li>• Is the person's affect congruent with the stated mood? Explain.</li> </ul>
<b>Content of Thought</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there any delusions?</li> <li>• Is the person suicidal? Homicidal? What leads you do this conclusion?</li> </ul>
<b>Stream of Mental Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is speech normal or tangential or circumstantial? Give Examples.</li> </ul>
<b>Orientation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the person oriented times three?</li> </ul>
<b>Memory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote—can person remember past events?</li> <li>• Recent—can person remember 3/3 objects after 5 min?</li> <li>• Immediate—how well can the person do digit span back and forward?</li> </ul>
<b>Fund of Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the person aware of current events? Give examples.</li> <li>• Does the person know the names of the president and governor?</li> <li>• Can the person answer simple geography questions, such as naming bordering states?</li> </ul>
<b>Concentration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serial 7's or 3's? Give person's response.</li> <li>• Spell WORLD forward and backward?</li> <li>• Follow a three step command?</li> <li>• Difficulty following conversation. Give examples.</li> </ul>

-	<b>Examples of observation detail:</b>
<b>Abstract Thinking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interpret proverbs? Give examples.</li></ul>
<b>Insight and Judgment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the person have insight into his/her condition?</li><li>• Does the person show good judgment when asked what he/she would do if smelling smoke in crowded theater?</li></ul>