



LINDA COYLE

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY
EXPERT WITNESS

**Teletherapy information pack for
Medico-legal Speech & Language Therapy Assessments
for parents/guardians**



Hello! My name is Linda Coyle, and I am a speech and language therapist. I have been asked to carry out a medico-legal speech and language therapy assessment on your child. Given the Covid 19 situation, I am currently conducting my assessments via teletherapy. This is basically speech therapy over the internet instead of face to face. As this is a new experience for many, I have put together this pack to explain the process.

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How teletherapy works

While in many ways a session via teletherapy can be quite similar to a face to face session, it is obviously not quite the same as working with someone in person. However, there are different things that we can do so that it works well.

I. Preparing for assessment

Contact details: I need a contact e-mail in order to arrange the call, and also a mobile phone number in case there are any issues with connecting over the internet.

Complete background information form: Having some key information about your child before the initial meeting helps me to prepare materials that are motivating and interesting for him/her. It also guides me in choosing what assessment tools to use with your child. *Please return the form at least two weeks before the appointment date.*

Complete consent forms: Please fill and return the attached consent forms for teletherapy and for video recording. You can do this by i) printing out the forms, ii) completing them, iii) taking a photo of them, and iv) sending this by e-mail. Alternatively, you can send me an e-mail stating that you have consented to both teletherapy and video recording.

Device for call: Identify a device that you will use for the call. This could be a tablet or a laptop. Ideally the bigger the screen the better. Consider what positioning would work best for your child.

Headphones not required: While headphones can be useful for better sound quality, usually they will not be needed for the assessment. The main reason is that in general, I need parents to be able to hear what I am saying to their children. The exception would be older children who are able to work independently.

2. Prior to Zoom call

- Please choose a room which is quiet and relatively distraction free.
- In order to ensure optimal internet quality during the assessment, ask others in the house not to use the internet, particularly for online games, videostreaming such as Netflix or Amazon Prime, and/or to conduct video calls such as through Zoom, Skype or WhatsApp.
- It is important that there are no other children or adults present in the room during the assessment, unless they are specifically involved in it.
- Given the challenges of arranging childcare at present, if there is a particular time of the day which is preferable, please let me know well in advance, and I will endeavour to accommodate this.
- Please ensure that your child has been fed and has had their care needs met (e.g. toileting) prior to the Zoom call.
- If there are particular toys, equipment or activities which you feel your child responds well to, do have these available.

3. How to log in to the Zoom call

- I will email you a link to access the Zoom call before the session.
- Please reply to confirm that you have received the e-mail.
- You do not need a Zoom account to access the call, but it is useful if you have one.

4. Video recording the assessment

Similar to a face to face assessment, I sometimes need to record specific parts of the session in order to carry out an effective assessment. I have attached a consent form and would like you to complete this prior to the Zoom call. I will let you know during the session when I am going to be recording your child, and you will have the option to say “yes” or “no” to this at the time. Please be assured that any recording is purely for the purpose of getting a clear picture of your child, and that I adhere to GDPR guidelines regarding people’s personal data.

5. Teletherapy assessment sessions

The speech and language therapy assessment will take 2 to 2.5 hours in total. This will be spread across two or three Zoom calls, depending on what works best for your child.

Zoom call 1 (1 hour approximately)

While the session has been divided into two sections, in reality there is flexibility within the session.

Initial parent interview: The main part of the initial session will be an interview with you in order to get background information about your child, and a picture of your child's needs.

Initial meeting with the child: The second part of the session will involve meeting and getting to know your child. This may be through having a combination of having a chat and playing games. Depending on how this goes I may start doing some assessments with your child. These may be quite informal through pictures and games, or through a formalised test.

Zoom calls 2 & 3

Following the initial session, we can decide on whether 1 or 2 calls are needed to complete the assessment. The length of the calls will be between 30 minutes and 1 hour in length. These calls will involve:

Assessment of your child: This can happen through a range of informal methods, such as games, and/or through formal tests.

Closing parent interview: This is an opportunity for me to discuss with you the main areas that I identified in the assessment, and to check if this is an accurate reflection of your child. It also gives you a chance to add any observations that you have from the assessment, and any other information which you feel is relevant.

Contact information: If you have any queries, I can be contacted by e-mail at info@lindacoyle.ie or by phone on 087 6207065.

Summary of Privacy Policy for Medico-legal Services

A full copy of Linda Coyle's privacy policy is available for download at <http://speechtherapycork.ie/privacy-policy/>

This includes a plain language privacy statement.

There are 3 main types of data which Linda Coyle retains:

- Clinical Data needed to provide a service.
- Financial Data from clients for billing.
- Contact Data from referrals.

Linda Coyle keeps both physical and electronic records of clinical data in order to provide a service.

- Preferred format is electronic for clinical data.
- Clinical data is deleted/confidentially destroyed upon written notification of settlement of the case. If there is a reason that this data needs to be deleted/destroyed prior to this, then the request must be made in writing to info@lindacoyle.ie citing that wish and providing an explanation as to why this has been requested.

Linda Coyle keeps electronic records of Financial data from those who use her services.

- Financial Data is kept for 6 years to adhere to revenue guidelines.
- Financial Data (including non-payment of bills) can be given to Irish revenue at revenue's request.

Contact Data is kept for 6 years to allow processing of Financial Data if required.

Only contact data relevant for financial records is retained. Contact data may be retained for longer for safety, legal request, or child protection reasons.

Financial data cannot be removed before 6 years; however, it can be shared with you to allow for any correction or for you should that be required.

Contact data cannot be removed before 6 years, however it can be shared with you to allow for any update or correction of material facts such as spelling of names, addresses, phone numbers etc.

Third party sharing

If you require data to be shared with any third party, you must request it via email to Linda Coyle, or via written request. Only the person listed as the key contact can request this if it is in the case of a minor.

For further information, you can email Linda Coyle at info@lindacoyle.ie.



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Background information form for medico-legal assessment via teletherapy

Contact details

Child's name:

Your name:

Mobile number:

E-mail address:

Tell me about what your child enjoys

Activities/toys/games

People

Places

T.V. programmes/computer games

Music

Other

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Background information

How does your child communicate?

What is your child's vision like?

What is your child's hearing like?

What is important for me to know about your child before I meet him/her?



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Consent for teletherapy

In consenting to a medico-legal assessment via teletherapy it is necessary that you understand and accept the following:

- That my service will be provided via teletherapy over a video conferencing platform such as Zoom, and through other communication and electronic tools (for example, e-mail, Whatsapp, Dropbox)
- That there are potential risks involving technology, including but not limited to: Internet interruptions, and technical difficulties. These difficulties can disrupt a session and may result in sessions needing to be re-scheduled.
- You understand that you are responsible for information security on your computer and in your own physical location.
- You understand that you are responsible for creating and maintaining your user name(s) and password(s) and not share these with another person.
- You understand that you are responsible to ensure privacy at your own location.
- You understand and accept my GDPR policy relating to my medico-legal services.

By signing you are indicating that you have read, understand, and agree to all the above:

Signature (Parent/Legal Guardian)

Date Signed

Your First & Last Name: _____

Your child's First & Last Name: _____

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**Video recording consent form for children
for medico-legal services via teletherapy**

Plain language statement:

I record your speech so that I can look and listen to how you communicate.

I keep these recordings safe.

I destroy the recordings when I no longer need them

Consent

I (*parent's/guardian's name*) _____

do / do not consent (delete as appropriate)

for (*child's name*) _____ to be video recorded

I understand that this recording will be used solely for the purpose of assessment of my child's communication skills, and will not be used for other purposes without my prior consent.

Recordings will be kept for as long as needed in order to evaluate your child's speech. They will be safely destroyed/deleted once they are no longer required, and/or when I have written confirmation that the case has been settled. Recordings can be deleted prior to then if requested in writing.

Signed: _____

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