



**SUGGESTED CONTENT FOR INCLUSION IN
“AFFIDAVIT FOR REQUEST FOR ORDER AUTHORIZING PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION”
11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, JUVENILE-FAMILY DIVISION**

PSYCHOSOCIAL SITUATION, STRESSORS, & INTERVENTIONS

1. Describe the observed behaviors (and who has observed them) that resulted in the decision to obtain a psychiatric assessment of this child.
2. Describe any recent or chronic events or stressors in the child’s life that, in your judgment, may have contributed to any of the observed behaviors.
3. If the child has been taking medication, could the child’s observed behaviors be adverse behavioral effects of the medication? (Several common behavioral adverse effects of psychotropic medications are listed in Module 5.)
4. Summarize the results of your own assessment of this child’s biopsychosocial situation: what, in your judgment, could explain how this child is now acting? Avoid using psychiatric diagnoses as explanations.
5. Describe any interventions (type, duration) that have been carried out to address the specific issues identified in your assessment of this child’s situation. Describe how these interventions have been evaluated, and their results. If no psychosocial interventions have been tried, state so clearly.
6. State what alternative interventions, in your knowledge and judgment, could address this child’s current problems. To what extent are these interventions available for this child?

PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATION HISTORY

1. List any medications (names, dosages, times per day) the child took previously (at least over past two years) and any taken presently.
2. If child has been on medication, discuss how you have participated in evaluating the child’s progress on medication. State what specific goals have been expected, how has their attainment been evaluated, how often, have any rating scales been used?
3. If child has been on medication, have you evaluated for the presence of any side effects, behavioral or other? Have you used any side effects rating scales? How well, in your judgment, is this child tolerating his or her medication?
4. Have you any information on this child’s attitude to the medication?
5. Discuss how the risks and benefits of the medication, as well as those of alternate interventions, have been assessed and discussed with parents or caregivers.
6. If the child is placed on medication, what will be your role in monitoring the effects of the medication?
7. What reasons do you have to expect that the proposed medication will be beneficial to this child? Have you been able to review any studies that evaluate the proposed treatment for this child?