MENTAL STATUS EXAMINATION AND BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATIONS

General Appearance: The examinee presented as an average weight individual on a medium frame. Her appearance seemed consistent with her stated age. The examinee was dressed appropriately. Her hair was short and appeared clean. Overall, her attire and grooming appeared appropriate and clean with no signs of self-neglect. She wore glasses and reported adequate vision for completing the testing. Additionally, she appeared to have no difficulties with hearing in the context of our interactions.

Sensorium/Comprehension: During the interview and testing, the examinee presented as awake, alert, attentive to the examiner, and appropriately responsive to the environment. She was oriented to person, place and time. She showed no apparent difficulties in comprehending interview questions and test instructions.

Social Deameanor: During the interview, the examinee’s attitude appeared cooperative and adequate rapport seemed to be established. Eye contact was appropriate. The examinee demonstrated normal turn-taking during our conversation.

Characteristics of Speech and Language: The examinee’s rate of speech was normal. She showed a normal level of speech initiation and ongoing verbal engagement. The examinee’s amount of speech was best described as regular and appropriate throughout the evaluation day. Additionally, speech volume was normal and appropriate to contextual factors through the evaluation. There were no aprosodic abnormalities. The examinee’s articulation was observed to be normal. The examinee’s expressive language was mildly dysfluent and included signs of inappropriate hesitation, inappropriate pauses, and difficulties initiating words. The examinee showed no difficulties in understanding questions or instructions and there were no signs of impairments in understanding the non-verbal aspects of communication (e.g., normal receptive prosody and language pragmatics). For example, the examinee showed word-finding pauses in spontaneous speech.

Affect, Emotions Displayed, Emotions Inferred: Throughout the examination day, the examinee’s displayed a full and normal affect. There were no overt indicators of abnormality in emotional processes either in the direction of excess or deficit. Her affect was appropriate to the content of the conversation.

Motor and Psychomotor Activity: Casual observation of the examinee’s gait and station found them to be normal. There were no signs of tremor or involuntary movements. Dystonias, tics, automatisms, stereotypic behaviors, exaggerated mannerisms, compulsive behaviors, motor and verbal perseveration, and posturing were all absent. The examinee’s activity level was best described as normal. There was no indication of psychomotor slowing or agitation.

Thought Process, Thought Content, and Perception: Throughout the course of the day, the examinee’s verbal discourse was logical, linear and goal-oriented. She generally stayed on topic without signs of being derailed by thought disorganization, intrusions
from emotionally laden topics, or distractions from the environment. She was not tangential or circumstantial. Verbal discourse was appropriately spontaneous, responsive, and detailed. The examinee’s discourse was also easy to follow and flowed in an organized fashion making collection of information relatively easy. There were no indicators of delusional thought content. Overt signs of obsessive focus and substantial preoccupations were not observed in the examinee's conversation and were denied on direct questioning. The examinee denied experiencing any troubling thoughts related to harming herself or others. She denied any specific intent or plan for harming herself or others. Overt signs of hallucinations or other perceptual disturbances were not directly observed and were denied during the clinical interview.

**Concentration, Persistence and Pace:** The examinee displayed what appeared to be normal levels of concentration, persistence and pace. She was able to sustain focus in a reliable fashion throughout the day. She completed tests in a timely fashion, and did not request an unusual amount of breaks. Her pace appeared within normal limits and she was able to sustain this pace throughout the day.