

DARE Evidence of Disability Form – Mental Health Conditions

Guidelines for Psychiatrists

1. Generally, as much information as possible should be given about the case in question. All boxes must be filled, because leaving areas blank often leads to ineligibility of applicants, even when a diagnosis is provided.
2. Regarding Question 3 (Diagnosis): The diagnosis must indicate a specific mental disorder in accordance with ICD10 or DSM-IV classification systems. If the applicant has more than one mental health condition, these should be named separately.
3. Regarding Question 9 (Impact of the MHI): The key clinical opinion here is that the condition is severe and sustained enough to adversely impact on the student's academic performance during the Leaving Certificate cycle, and therefore may well lead to underperformance in the Leaving Certificate exam. The opinion should be substantiated by evidence as to why you feel this is the case. An example is provided below.

“This student's depressive illness has led to a large number of absences from school and has impaired her capacity to concentrate and to engage fully with her studies during the Leaving Certificate cycle. It is my opinion that her performance in the Leaving Certificate exam will most likely be adversely affected by the fact that she suffers from this mental disorder.”

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