

Guidelines for reports from Qualified Professionals to support accommodations on the Texas Bar Exam

Note: If you can provide any of the following, then you do *not* need to provide a Report from a Qualified Professional:

- Proof that the NCBE granted you the requested accommodation on the MPRE; or
- Proof that you received the requested accommodation in response to an IEP or Section 504 plan, along with a copy of that IEP or Section 504 plan; or
- Proof that you received the requested accommodation on a bar exam offered within the last 3 years by another jurisdiction, along with the documentation you provided to that jurisdiction to support your request; or
- Documentation from Social Security Administration or Veteran's Administration establishing your disability and how it impairs major life activities.

1. The report must be from a Qualified Professional

- 1.1. According to the ADA, "A qualified professional is licensed and otherwise properly credentialed and possesses expertise in the disability for which modifications or accommodations are sought."
- 1.2. Supplemental information from other relevantly trained professionals may be helpful in support of requested accommodations.
- 1.3. The report should clearly state the name, title, and professional credentials of the Qualified Professional — including information about their licensure or certification, areas of specialization, employment, and the state or province in which they practice.
- 1.4. All reports should be on letterhead, in English, dated, signed by the Qualified Professional, and legible.

2. The report must document the applicant's (a) diagnosis and (b) current need for accommodations on the Texas Bar Exam.

- 2.1. See Appendix 1 for a description of standard testing conditions for the Texas Bar Exam.
- 2.2. The report should be based on more than the applicant's self-report.
- 2.3. The report should include more than just a diagnosis.

2.4. The report may include a summary of a diagnostic interview conducted by the Qualified Professional, which may include the following:

- a diagnosis
- a description of the diagnostic criteria and any tests used
- description and history of presenting symptoms
- whether the impairment is permanent, temporary, fluctuating, or progressive.
- relevant developmental, vocational, and medical history
- relevant educational history (including previous standardized test scores, group-administered test scores, IEPs, 504 Plans, report cards and/or listings of previously obtained accommodations and evidence of their effectiveness)
- for each requested accommodation, a rationale related to how the applicant's disability affects them in the testing situation

3. The report should address the applicant's current level of functioning and need for accommodations on the Texas Bar Exam

- 3.1. The provision of reasonable accommodations is based upon the current impact of the disability on a major life activity that affects the applicant's ability to take the bar exam under standard conditions.
- 3.2. If the condition is permanent or unchanging, then older evaluations will still be good documentation of the applicant's current need for accommodations.

Appendix 1

Texas Bar Exam under Standard Conditions

1. Texas Bar Exam under Standard Conditions

- The bar exam is given in a large room with 150-1,100 examinees seated in assigned seats. Examinees may bring in a water bottle and cannot bring in any other food or drinks. They may leave their seats during the exam to stretch, go to the restroom, or refill their water bottle.
- The exam is a two-day exam, with a morning session and an afternoon session each day. Each morning session starts at 8:30 a.m. Examinees have a lunch break of about 60-90 minutes. Each afternoon session starts at 1:30 p.m.

2. Day 1 morning session (MPT)

- Examinees are given two paper booklets. Each booklet contains a set of facts, a library of legal resources, and an assignment to perform a lawyerly task using the materials provided. The official instructions recommend that examinees allocate half of their time on each assignment for reading and organizing and half for writing the assignment.
- Examinees may either type their answers using their laptop or handwrite their answers into a lined paper booklet.

3. Day 1 afternoon session (Essays)

- Examinees are given a paper booklet containing 6 essay questions.
- Examinees may either type their answers using their laptop or handwrite their answers into a lined paper booklet.

4. Day 2 morning session (MBE)

- Examinees are given a paper booklet containing 100 multiple-choice questions. They have 3 hours to answer. They record their answers by “bubbling” in on a computer-graded Scantron grid.

5. Day 2 afternoon session (MBE)

- Same as the morning session.