

Stroke



WHAT IS A STROKE?

A stroke happens when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off. Damage to the brain can affect how the body works; it can also change how you think and feel.

Stroke happens to people of all ages. It almost always comes without warning and its impact can be life changing. Stroke survivors can be left with physical disabilities, cognitive impairment, fatigue, and emotional or behavioural issues.

The effects of a stroke are unique to each individual, varying according to the size of the stroke and the area affected. There are three different types of stroke:

Ischaemic stroke

An ischaemic stroke is caused by a blockage, cutting off the blood supply to the brain. This is the most common type of stroke.

Haemorrhagic stroke

A haemorrhagic stroke is caused by a bleeding in or around the brain.

Transient ischaemic attack (TIA)

A TIA is known as a 'mini stroke'. It is similar to a stroke but the initial symptoms last for a short amount of time. This is because the blockage that stops the blood and oxygen getting to the brain is temporary.

100,000

people suffer a stroke
in the UK each year*

1.3 million

people in the UK are
stroke survivors*

IMPACT ON COMMUNICATION

Communication is a complex skill with many different facets. For example, when someone asks you a question, you must process and understand what was asked, decide on your answer, put your words together and reply, all while following social 'rules'. If a part of the brain that supports any one of these skills is damaged, it can affect communication.

Depending on the area of the brain that is damaged, your client may have problems with any area of communication and their difficulties in each area can vary considerably.

Problems with speech and language:

- Difficulty forming or saying words
- Only using single words or short sentences
- Missing words out or use them in the wrong order
- Using one word while meaning another

Problems with understanding

- Difficulty processing information, becoming easily 'overloaded'
- Struggling to fully understand what other people say
- Struggling to follow instructions

Problems with literacy

- Losing the ability to read
- Retaining writing skills but losing reading skills
- Struggling to recognise written words
- Difficulty identifying key points in a document
- Difficulty forming letters or spelling words
- Difficulty writing or typing coherent sentences

Problems with communication and pragmatics

- Taking things literally and struggling to interpret figurative language
- Struggling to follow communication 'rules' (e.g., taking turns in conversation, using appropriate language)

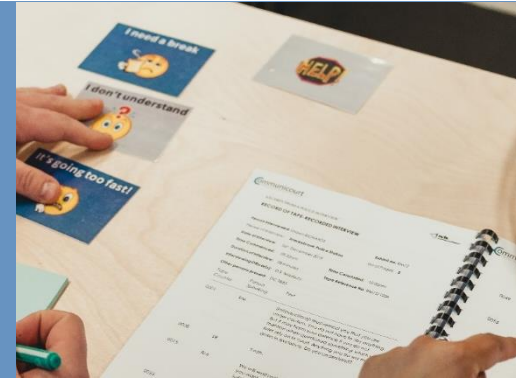
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Communicourt
communication matters in the courts

Visit www.communicourt.co.uk to register for free and full access to our guides and resources.

Intermediaries are impartial and our duty is to the court. We are not witnesses or advocates. This information is intended as a guide only to help you decide if your client needs our support.

How we can help



TIPS FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

- **Remember:** Your client may have good days and bad days. If they are feeling tired or in a low mood, it can make communication harder. Don't forget to take breaks
- **Try** scheduling meetings at an appropriate time. For example, stroke can cause fatigue, which may be worse in the afternoon. Talk to your client and schedule things when they are feeling their best
- **Consider** your environment. Being in a busy or noisy place may make it harder for your client to concentrate and respond. Take steps to reduce distractions and background noise
- **Explore** other communication mediums like drawing, writing, texting, typing or gesture to support communication.

REQUEST AN INTERMEDIARY ASSESSMENT

Communicourt will assess your client to understand their communication difficulties and how these might affect them in court. Your client does not need to have a diagnosis.

We produce a comprehensive report. This will identify any particular communication issues and make recommendations to help you and your client.

One of our highly trained intermediaries can be there throughout proceedings to facilitate those recommendations, meaning you can focus on your job.

Our experience means we can recommend solutions that make a tangible difference and support the justice system in getting a fair result.

SUPPORT FROM DIFFERENT STROKES

Different Strokes supports working age and younger stroke survivors to reclaim their lives. For more information please contact: Phone: 0345 130 7172 Email: info@differentstrokes.co.uk Website: www.differentstrokes.co.uk

HOW TO GET SUPPORT



BOOK ONLINE

Refer your client for an assessment through our online booking system communicourt.co.uk

5 minutes

FUNDING

We will send you a quote that you need to send to HMCTS and Legal Aid for them to approve funding

24 Hours

BOOK THE ASSESSMENT

Once you have funding in place, please let us know. We will then arrange an assessment

4-6 weeks

ASSESSMENT

The 3 hour assessment can be carried out in person or remotely. You will then receive a report

7 days

BOOK COURT DATES

We will send booking forms which must be signed by the court. Once received we will then book your intermediary

Throughout the trial

Statistics references: *Statistics from The Stroke Association: www.stroke.org.uk/what-is-stroke/stroke-statistics Accessed [online]: September 2022