



NICHOLAS HOLLAND SMITH

BSc Hons, PG Dip OT



EXPERT WITNESS

Essex

Clients: All of UK, Poland, and Worldwide

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

- * College of Occupational Therapy - Full Membership BT0235141
- * Health Professions Council Registration - OT50253
- * British Association of Brain Injury Case Management
- * Back Care Professional Member
- * National Back Exchange Professional Member
- * Post Graduate Diploma in Occupational Therapy, London South Bank University. 2006.
- * Polish Language Course, Wroclaw University, Poland. 1999
- * BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science, London South Bank University. 1996.
- * Professional Member of Post Supra Nuclear Palsy Foundation as a treating Occupational Therapist since 2008.



EXPERIENCE

I qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 2006. I have worked with both adults and children with highly complex physical disabilities and physical health needs.

From 2006 to 2010, I worked in both NHS and Adult Social Care community rehabilitation teams in the Luton and Dunstable area. My main role involved discharge planning from intermediate care to the community.

In 2007 in my role as an Occupational Therapist in Luton I participated in the government pilot scheme for Telecare equipment in the community.

In 2010 I moved into independent practice completing assessments for aids and equipment on behalf of the Royal British Legion. Also during this time I worked as a Locum Occupational Therapist for Adult Social Care Services in Mid-Bedfordshire, NHS community hospitals in Bicester, and St Albans managing in-patient Occupational Therapy treatment and discharge planning.

Since 2011 I have worked as an Expert Witness for Maggie Sargent & Associates and as a Case Manager for Community Case Management Services.

Since 2011 I have written over 180 expert reports for the Court on both adults and children with complex disability or illness, as a result of incidents in the work place or public roads, manual handling, and clinical negligence.

The types of injuries I have experience in providing Occupational therapy reports include; Acquired Head and Spinal Cord injuries,

Cauda Equina
Amputees
Cerebral Palsy
Brachial Plexus

Orthopaedic injuries to the upper limbs, hands, lower limbs, and hip replacements
Neurological injuries, strokes, chronic pain including CRPS
Mental health and Nutritional conditions
Visual Impairments - loss of vision due to clinical negligence for clients in both UK and Poland

I also have experience of preparing reports for very rare conditions such as Maple Syrup Urine Disease and Leopard Syndrome in complex paediatric cases.

I have also completed a number of specialist Occupational Therapy reports in relation to DePuy ASR hip failure and subsequent arbitration tribunals.

I have extensive experience of assessing for bespoke equipment including wheelchairs and scooters.

I have specialist experience in Manual Handling and I have prepared reports specifically on manually handling issues including complex Paediatric cases with complex manual handling needs.

In addition to Occupational Therapy reports I also prepare expert Care reports for all Orthopaedic injuries.

I see clients all over the UK, Poland, and Eastern Europe and I speak fluent English and Polish.

I have attended conference with Counsel and I have prepared joint statements on numerous occasions.

I have undergone training in the medico-legal process and I am fully aware of my responsibilities under the Civil Procedure Rules pertaining to expert witnesses.

Since 2011 in addition to my expert witness role, I worked as a Case Manager and treating Occupational Therapist assessing, reviewing, and preparing reports supporting client-centred treatment goals and plans on behalf of Community Case Management Services.

My experience and knowledge of Polish language has enabled me to work as a Case Manager and a treating Occupational Therapist for Polish clients living in Poland and in the United Kingdom.

I have lived and worked in Poland from 1998 and from 2011 to 2013 on behalf of CCMS I managed and supported an individual with all rehabilitation needs.

I have also visited and assessed clients in Lithuania and provided essential help and support to the family post-severe road-traffic incident in the UK. I assisted with improving quality of life with repatriation to the UK for urgent medical treatment and therapies due to the lack of medical care and services in Lithuania.

In my case management role I deal with the following:

- Assessing and completing specialist Occupational Therapy reports supporting individual claims post acquired brain or spinal injury as well as cerebral palsy
- Recruiting suitable staff to work with adults and children
- Appointing treating therapists
- Goal-setting for the rehabilitation progress
- Management of complex case reviews and intervention on a regular basis
- Responsibility for monitoring standards and working closely with care agencies
- Training: Ensuring staff is adequately trained to provide appropriate care and support
- Management of complaints according to policy
- Liaising with families, completing carers' assessments and providing support and problem-solving
- Instigating safeguarding procedures, organising strategy meetings/case conferences
- Successfully organising multidisciplinary team - decision support tool for continuing health eligibility, submitting applications to PCT including costings, care package, care plans for health funding

Management of case transfers liaising with the learning disability team to ensure smooth transition from children's services to adults working cohesively with colleagues
To support clients that are returning to work, assessing goals and client needs
Provide duty cover; respond to emergencies, duty assessments and safeguarding issues
Translating and assisting in communications with Polish clients and service providers
Liaising with equipment providers in Poland.

MAGGIE SARGENT & ASSOCIATES • Darlingscott Farm • Darlingscott • Shipston-on-Stour • Warwickshire CV36 4PN
TEL: 01608 682500 • Fax: 01608 682372 • EMAIL: office@maggiesargent.co.uk
© Maggie Sargent & Associates