

Mental Status Exam for Ronald Makin

Date of Birth: 04/05/1968

Examiner: Michael LaPray LCSW

Date of Exam: 10/16/2020

Length: 2.5 hours

This exam was requested per the client's attorney, for the purpose of getting a mental health opinion regarding Mr. Makin. The examiner has had extensive experience in both the prison system as well as in the forensic mental health setting, and has been and is currently licensed in the State of Utah as a Clinical Social Worker. In the course of employment at both Utah State Hospital and the Utah State Prison, the evaluator has had the opportunity to meet with hundreds of inmates and/or patients and has provided counseling and treatment for dozens of individuals over the past 12 years in a forensic setting. The evaluator is highly qualified in mental health assessments, looking at motives, manipulative behavior, and in looking at probable success treatment using various programs.

Although not qualified to do psychological testing, the evaluator is qualified to make diagnosis and give clinical opinions regarding Mr. Makin's mental health status, criminal thinking patterns, and current level of functioning. The exam was conducted on 10/16/2020 at the home office of the evaluator

Background Information

Mr. Makin is a 52-year-old divorced white male who has been charged with Aggravated Arson, a first-degree felony. Mr. Makin arrived early to the exam and was dressed appropriately with slightly below average personal hygiene and appearance. He presented with a euthymic mood and slightly blunted affect. He appeared to understand the purpose of the exam and gave written permission for a release of information. Mr. Makin presented with a low average I.Q. and it was required occasionally for the evaluator to rephrase or ask questions in a different way so that he could understand, however, he appeared to have adequate communication skills for this evaluation. No other contacts were provided for this evaluation, other than conversations with his attorney, Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Makin reports that he grew up as the 4th oldest child of five brothers and two sisters, with two siblings having since passed away. There appears to have been at least some conflict in the home with the general sense that there may have not been a lot of structure or adequate supervision growing up for Mr. Makin. He reports that he was involved in special education services from about the 2nd grade onward. He reported having issues with memory and retention of information. He also reports multiple incidences where he had head trauma, at one time falling out of the back of a truck. Mr. Makin may have had traumatic brain injury from said incidences but this was never formally diagnosed as it appears he was never taken to a doctor after these incidences occurred. He also reports several incidences between the ages of 18-25 in which he had conflicts with his siblings when the police were called. There appears to be several minor assault charges from this time period, which he reports as were classified as Class B misdemeanors. He reports that he has two daughters from previous

relationships. He has some contact with the youngest daughter but more limited with the older daughter. He also reports being married from age 47 to age 50 with no children from that relationship. He reports the cause of his divorce as poor communication.

Ron reports that he had had a number of medical problems. These problems are most likely to contribute to his disability and inability to work, as Ron has had a variety of jobs over the years, he always appeared industrious. Besides the probable TBI, he reports that he has had two strokes, which initially affected the left side of his body. He had physical therapy to overcome this and walks with no noticeable gait. Mr. Makin also had gastric bypass surgery in 2014 ultimately resulting in a loss of more than 300 lbs. Ron reports that he has some physical therapy to help him overcome some of the physical effects of the strokes. He reports that he currently spends some time at a friend's restaurant wiping down tables even though he qualified for SSDI.

Reasoning and Competency :

Despite having a low average IQ, Mr. Makin appears to be competent to stand trial. He understands his charges, he appears to appreciate his charges, and could testify relevantly in court. Mr. Makin appears to have a strong sense of right and wrong. The evaluator got no sense that Mr. Makin was trying to appear better than he was. He answered questions in a straightforward manner, and did not appear to hide or minimize his past failures. When asked about his possible legal strategy, and the possibility of a taking a plea deal, Mr. Makin reports that he is not open to this as even a possibility. He clearly stated, "I never run from my mistakes... I can't agree to something I never did."

When asked if he considered himself above average honest person, Mr. Makin replied in the affirmative that he believes that he is. He does not appear to have the grandiosity or manipulative tendencies of a person who demonstrates Cluster A personality disorders such as Anti-social, Narcissistic, or Borderline personal disorder. He does not appear to have a sense of entitlement nor does he appear to have the sense of portraying a victim as a manipulative tactic, as those with personality disorders usually do.

Mr. Makin appears to have a fairly accurate sense of self-awareness and plausible assessment of his own strengths and limitations. He appears to accept what these limitations are. He appears to have a strong sense of right and wrong. The evaluator could not detect any reasonable motive or secondary gain for committing the alleged crime, and the proposed motive of attention seeking behavior does not appear congruent with Mr. Makin's character.

Summary and Conclusions

Despite having some problems in learning new skills, operational memory appears to be intact and Mr. Makin can adequately negotiate the tasks of daily living independently with little problems. He suffers from some mild form of neuro-cognitive impairment with the contributing factors most likely being both the vascular impairment (strokes) and traumatic brain injuries he may have suffered as a child. The impairment appears most likely to limit his abstract thinking and academic learning.

Some areas of his cognition do not appear impaired. He appears to have sound and logical moral reasoning and sense of right and wrong. Despite some mild limitations, He is able to live on his own, take care of bills, and provide for his daily needs, and appears motivated to live a good life. He tends to mind his own business if left alone and likely only to act in an aggressive manner when he feels that he is physically threatened. He does not appear to be overly sensitive and would be unlikely to initiate

violence for verbal disagreements for such reasons as to "save face" or being disrespected. Individuals like Ron are much more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators, and with his strong sense of moral reasoning are most unlikely to commit crimes. They are much more likely to be further victimized in jails or prisons or other placed where they cannot control their setting.

Although there may with psychosis in the family with an older brother, reality testing appears to be intact for Ron. There are no indications the Mr. Makin experiences any type of psychotic process including delusions or hallucinations or factors that would prevent him from having a firm grasp on reality. Although his thinking style appear to be concrete, it also appears to be clear and linear.

Because, Mr. Makin reports that he has limited connection with his family, not because he wants this, but he would most likely benefit from involvement in church or other volunteer organizations. He says that he is involved in a church and benefits from the social contact. The fact that he stayed out of the system for decades demonstrates both resilience and his ability to mind his own business. He could benefit from further support through perhaps community based mental health services where he could socialize on a more regular basis.

It is strongly hoped that the investigation to the alleged crime for Mr. Makin is done thoroughly, as Mr. Makin does not meet the typical psychological profile of those convicted of arson, nor does he demonstrate the characteristic faulty thinking patterns of those involved in the criminal justice system. Unjust incarceration would most likely have a devastating and irreversible negative effect upon Mr. Makin. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. if I can be of further assistance, I have included my contact information below.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael R. Farney LCSW". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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