

CHECKLIST FOR SELECTING A LIFE CARE PLANNER

✓ PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- **Education** including degrees and continuing education? If doctorate, was the university accredited? (Some have “mail order” diplomas or degrees from “universities” which are less than stellar.)
 - **Work** experience?
 - **Life Care Planning** experience?
 - **Research** knowledge and experience?
 - **Certifications or Licenses?** Generally accepted rehabilitation certifications include **CLCP** (Certified Life Care Planner), **CRC** (Certified Rehabilitation Counselor), **CDMS** (Certified Disability Management Specialist), **CVE** (Certified Vocational Evaluator), **CRRN** (Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse), **CCM** (Certified Case Manager), Diplomat or Fellow **ABVE** (American Board of Vocational Experts).
 - **Forensic experience** (if appropriate)? Familiar with the rules pertaining to experts? Have they testified? Do they have a list of cases in which they testified at deposition or trial for the previous four years? Plaintiff/Defense ratio?
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✓ PROSPECTIVE CONSULTANT’S AWARENESS OF LIFE CARE PLANNING

- Are they a Board-Certified Life Care Planner?
 - Have they achieved the **Certificate** in Life Care Planning offered through the University of Florida?
 - Have they completed **courses** offered by a noted program on Life Care Planning (e.g., Rehabilitation Training Institute, Intellicus, University of Florida, NARPPS, et al.)
 - Can they cite Life Care Planning **references**?
 - Do they know some of the **professionals** associated with Life Care Planning publications and training (e.g., Terry Blackwell, Richard Bonfiglio, Paul Deutsch, Susan Riddick-Grisham, Julie Kitchen, Patti McCollom, Robert Meier, Anne Sluis-Powers, Horace Sawyer, Randall Thomas, Roger Weed, Terry Winkler, Jim Young)?
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HAWKINS FORENSIC CONSULTING

✓ COMMITMENT TO THE PROFESSION

- What professional and disability specific **organization**(s) do they belong to? (Are they “legitimate” or fringe organizations such as a for-profit owned by an individual or group with little recognition or substance?)
 - Do they **participate** in professional development?
 - Have they **contributed** their time and effort by volunteering services to clients in need, speaking, holding office with professional organizations, writing articles, chapters or books?
 - Have they received **awards, honors, peer recognition**?
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✓ INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- Workers’ compensation or Federal Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs?
 - Personal injury?
 - Social Security?
 - State rehabilitation?
 - Longshore workers?
 - Jones Act?
 - Federal Employees Liability Act (FELA)?
 - Long term and short term disability?
 - Specialization in a particular disability?
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✓ MEDICAL FOUNDATION FOR OPINIONS ESTABLISHED

- Use established published **checklists** and **forms**?
 - Routinely consult with a **physician** as part of the team?
 - Include other **health professionals** as appropriate (e.g., OT, PT, SLT, RT, Audiology, Neuropsych, etc.)?
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✓ OTHER

- What and how do they **bill** for their services? Do they charge different rates for interview, records review, deposition or trial?
- Do they have a current **curriculum vitae**?
- History of **ethics** complaints or **arrests**?

