

Factors that May Affect an AIP's Responses

"The initial interview between the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) and the Alleged Incapacitated Person (AIP) is vital to the GAL's investigation and assessment of the AIP's needs. Those needs are allegations in the Petition for Guardianship but they may be incomplete or even inaccurate.

Understanding differences in communication styles and techniques and the factors that influence that communication are crucial to the GAL's assessment based on observations during that initial interview.

Factors

- ❑ "I can't hear".
- ❑ "I can't see".
- ❑ "I don't want to be rude or impolite".
- ❑ "I can't understand you".
- ❑ "You talk too fast".
- ❑ "I'm trying to be respectful of the differences between us".
- ❑ "I don't like being here".
- ❑ "The food is awful".
- ❑ "They keep changing my pills; before I've had a chance to adjust, they change them again. They make me dizzy and upset my stomach. I am so focused on how I feel physically that I get easily distracted".
- ❑ "Your phone keeps interrupting us".
- ❑ "I'm ashamed".
- ❑ "I'm embarrassed".
- ❑ "I'm not prepared to be this old".
- ❑ "I don't like having to rely on others".
- ❑ "Nobody really listens to me".
- ❑ "I'm afraid".
- ❑ "I am so alone".
- ❑ "People I've never seen before say they're here to help me and I never hear from them again".
- ❑ "*Once I hear you and understand what you're asking, it takes me awhile to think about how to respond. You are off to the next topic before I've had a chance to reply.*".
- ❑ "Everything you say brings up so many memories and thoughts".
- ❑ "You don't seem really interested in what I have to say".
- ❑ "You seem like you're in such a hurry".

Coping with Growing Old

- A loss of mobility due to deteriorating health or other circumstances.
- Increased isolation that may cause depression.
- The inability to keep up with chores around the house and the loss of spirit and pride that comes from not being able to keep up.
- The necessity to rely on family for continued support.
- The guilt and helplessness that comes from having to rely on those that once relied on and looked up to you.
- Stress and strain on you and your loved ones as they struggle to assist you in your daily life.
- Heartbreaking family experiences which are fraught with anger, guilt, and a long list of additional emotions.
- Hard decisions that involve changing how and where you live.
- An eventual loss of independence and with it the ability to do the things that are pleasing to you.
- A loss of friends and possessions which mean the world to you.
- Environments both locally and at a distance that are emotionally uncomfortable and lonely.
- An existence that is increasingly without purpose.