

# WITNESS SKILLS FOR MENTAL HEALTH TRIBUNALS



**La Touche Training**  
*the legal training consultants*



A highly practical and experiential one-day course for any witness who may be called to give evidence at a Mental Health Tribunal, appointed pursuant to the Mental Health Act 2001. Delegates will learn how to present evidence under cross-examination by looking at the theory, practice and procedure of giving evidence at the tribunal, and will then practice their skills in a cross-examination roleplay.

**La Touche Training**

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# WITNESS SKILLS FOR MENTAL HEALTH TRIBUNALS

“Excellent course that should be mandatory”

## Psychiatric Nurse Manager

### WHO AND WHY?

Many Mental Healthcare Professionals may have to appear before a Mental Health Tribunal. There, they may be exposed to explaining their recommendation, answering questions and being cross-examined. This is a stressful and challenging process, where doubt may be cast upon experience, qualifications, methods and opinions. The session is designed to ensure that witnesses can gain knowledge of the procedures involved and be equipped with the necessary skills to give a coherent account from the witness box.

### COURSE OUTLINE

The training course is an intensive and highly practical day. The procedures of giving evidence at the tribunal and being questioned, the roles of different people and the order of events will be explained. The problems that occur under questioning/cross-examination by lawyers will be identified and ways to deal with those problems explained. The morning session is designed to demystify the process. In the afternoon delegates will experience giving evidence and being cross-examined by a lawyer. The trainer gives constructive feedback on the witness' performance in the witness box.

### KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Understanding how the adversarial/inquisitorial processes work
- Considering the procedures, order of events and roles of those involved
- Personal preparation
- Understanding how to make appropriate use of records and reports
- Problems that arise in cross-examination and how to handle them
- Who to speak to and what to call them
- Learning how to deal with questions encroaching on patient confidentiality or impacting on patients' best interests
- Receiving individualised constructive feedback

### COURSE LOGISTICS

If you have 5 or more colleagues interested in the training you may wish La Touche Training to design and deliver the training in house at your organisation.

Alternatively, four hour one to one sessions can be arranged. Please contact us for details.

### ABOUT LA TOUCHE TRAINING

La Touche Training is Ireland's leading legal training company. We specialise in training non-lawyers in legal matters.

Our course designers and team of lawyers have unparalleled experience in providing high quality training that is tailored to your exact requirements.

Since beginning our specialised programme in 1995 over 70,000 delegates have attended our high quality and innovative training programmes. Clients' feedback is testimony to the success of our courses.

**Please call Mr. Martin Partridge on 01 8788 264 or  
email: [mpartridge@latouchetraining.ie](mailto:mpartridge@latouchetraining.ie) to book or discuss training**

**We work with a broad range of organisations including:**

#### Regulatory Bodies

- Companies Registration Office
- Competition Authority
- Comreg
- Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources
- Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment
- Environmental Health Officers
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Financial Regulator
- Health & Safety Authority
- Irish Naval Service
- Labour Inspectorate
- Local Authorities
- National Parks & Wildlife Service
- Office of Director of Corporate Enforcement
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs
- Private Security Authority
- Revenue Inspectors

#### Hospitals

- Beaumont Hospital
- Bon Secours Hospital
- Central Mental Hospital
- Children's University Hospital
- Kerry General Hospital
- Leopardstown Park Hospital
- Mater Misericordiae University Hospital
- Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children
- Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda

#### Organisations

- AON Healthcare Risk Services
- Brothers of Charity
- Centre for Nurse Education
- Department of Health
- Irish College of General Practitioners
- Irish Nurses Organisation
- Irish Prison Service
- Mental Health Commission
- National Association of GP Trainees
- NMPDU
- The Ergonomics Society



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