

Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar  
625 S. College Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
Tel: 2175225917  
Fax: 2175229341 or 9327

## CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL AUTHORITY

In re the request of  
accommodation

for nonstandard testing

**This form must be completed by a professional who is qualified to diagnose the applicant's disability and familiar with its current impact on the applicant's ability to perform on the Illinois Bar Examination. The recommendations for nonstandard testing accommodation must be SPECIFIC, and diagnoses must support a CURRENT need for the accommodation. A description of the Illinois bar examination is set forth at the end of this form. Attach and sign extra pages to complete your answers as necessary.**

1. Please provide your name, address, email address, phone number, and fax number and describe the professional qualifications (terminal degree, clinical specialty, licensure, etc.) that enable you to act in the capacity of a medical or psychological authority re the applicant's physical or mental impairment. A recent copy of your curriculum vitae must be attached.

2. Advise the date(s) on which you examined the applicant.

3. Describe the nature and severity of the applicant's physical or mental impairment and discuss its effects on the applicant's ability to take the bar examination under standard testing conditions.

4. Provide the complete ICD (International Classification of Diseases) diagnosis of the physical impairment or the complete multiaxial DSMIV or DSMIVTR (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) diagnosis of the mental impairment, including all relevant severity and course specifiers and a rating of the Global Assessment of Functioning.

5. List the tests, studies and/or procedures used to diagnose the physical or mental impairment and attach a copy of all pertinent medical or psychological records, including results of laboratory studies, diagnostic tests, and clinical procedures used to determine the presence and severity of impairment. In the case of psychological and psychoeducational testing, please attach all raw data and psychological reports pertinent to the impairment.

6. Advise with specificity the nonstandard testing accommodations you recommend for the applicant. Explain in detail how each accommodation relates to the applicant's physical or mental impairment and why each accommodation is needed. In each instance, support your recommendation with specific test results or clinical observations. If your recommendation includes an extension of the customary examination time, SPECIFY the amount of extra time recommended on each segment of the examination and describe your rationale for the amount of time recommended. If your recommendation includes the use of a computer to answer essay portions of the examination, advise whether and, if so, why the use of a spell check function is included as part of your recommendation.

Date of execution

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Signature

## **Description of the Illinois bar examination**

The Illinois bar examination is a timed, 2-day examination. On the first day, applicants handwrite answers to essay questions. Applicants may elect to use their laptop computers to type essay answers, but are not permitted access to a spell check function. On the second day, applicants answer 200 multiple choice questions posed on the standardized Multistate Bar Examination (MBE). Applicants mark answers by using a pencil to darken circles on a computer-graded scantron sheet. Applicants typically are seated 2 to a 6-foot table in a testing room set for 50 to 300 applicants. They are permitted to leave the room to go to the washroom or water station, but are given no extra time to do so. On the first day, applicants spend the first 90 minutes of the morning session completing a Multistate Performance Test (MPT) task (skills-based essay), and the next 90 minutes answering a second MPT. There is no break between the sessions. There is a lunch break of roughly 60 minutes between the morning and afternoon sessions. During the afternoon session, applicants spend 3 hours answering 6 essay questions. On the second day of the examination, applicants spend the 3-hour morning session answering 100 multiple choice questions. Following a lunch break of approximately 60 minutes, applicants spend the 3-hour afternoon session answering an additional 100 multiple choice questions.