



## Learner Guide to Providing Evidence of Disability for Carlow College, St. Patrick's

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Attention Deficit Disorder / Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder</b>
Type of Documentation	Evidence of Disability Form or Existing Report
Appropriate Professional	Appropriately qualified Consultant Psychiatrist OR Psychologist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician who is a member of his or her professional or regulatory body
FSD eligibility	Where the above person has provided a diagnosis of ADD / ADHD
Age of report	No age limit

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's syndrome)</b>
Type of Documentation	Evidence of Disability Form or Existing Report.
Appropriate Professional	Appropriately qualified Consultant Psychiatrist OR Psychologist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician who is a member of his or her professional or regulatory body.
FSD eligibility	Where the above person has provided a diagnosis of autism or Asperger's syndrome.
Age of report	No age limit.

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Blind / Vision Impaired</b>
Type of Documentation	Evidence of Disability Form or Existing Report (evidence from high street retailers not acceptable)
Appropriate Professional	Ophthalmologist/Ophthalmic Surgeon
FSD eligibility	One or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of disability from an Ophthalmologist/Ophthalmic Surgeon, with signature;</li> <li>• Letter from the National Council for the Blind confirming registration with the Council;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a student has attended a school for the Blind, a letter on headed notepaper signed by the principal which confirms attendance at the school.</li> </ul> <p>In the case of an Ophthalmologist / Ophthalmic Surgeon the evidence of disability should provide a diagnosis of severe reduction in vision that cannot be corrected with standard glasses or contact lenses, thereby reducing the person's ability to function at certain or all tasks. The diagnosis of a reduction in vision must be in relation to Best Corrected Visual Acuity or Field of Vision.</p>
Age of evidence of disability	No age limit.

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Deaf / Hard of Hearing</b>
Type of Documentation	Evidence of Disability Form or Existing Report (evidence from high street retailers not acceptable).
Appropriate Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Diagnostic/Clinical Audiologist registered with the Irish Academy of Audiologists or a HSE Audiologist OR</li> <li>(b) Principal of a School for the Deaf OR</li> <li>(c) ENT Consultant / Cochlear Implant Programme Co-ordinator</li> </ul>
FSD eligibility	<p>One or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An audiogram from a professionally qualified Audiologist and / or ENT Consultant, with signature, clearly indicating moderate to profound bilateral hearing loss (i.e. above 40dB).</li> <li>If a student has attended a school for the Deaf, a letter on headed notepaper signed by the principal which confirms attendance at the school.</li> </ul>
Age of evidence of disability	No age limit.

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia / Dysgraphia)</b>
Type of Documentation	Full psycho-educational assessment OR Existing Report The CAO/DARE evidence of disability form is not acceptable evidence.
Appropriate Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriately qualified Psychologist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body OR</li> <li>Appropriately qualified Occupational Therapist OR</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neurologist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body OR</li> <li>Chartered Physiotherapist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body.</li> </ul>
<p>FSD eligibility:</p> <p>For the purposes of the Fund, the CAO / DARE Evidence of Disability Form is not acceptable evidence of disability for this category of disability</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A full psycho-educational assessment from the Psychologist diagnosing Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia),</li> <li>A report by the Occupational Therapist / Neurologist/ Chartered Physiotherapist diagnosing Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia).</li> </ol> <p>All tests used in the assessments must be current, valid, and reliable and age appropriate.</p>
Age of report	No age limit.

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Mental Health Condition (including, but not exclusive to, the following: Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Clinical Depressive Conditions, Severe Anxiety, Severe Phobias, OCD, Severe Eating Disorders and Psychosis).</b>
Type of Documentation	Evidence of Disability Form OR Existing Report.
Appropriate Professional	Consultant Psychiatrist or Specialist Registrar who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body.
FSD eligibility	The report from the above should diagnose a significant mental health condition.
Age of report	The report should be no older than five years from the date of needs assessment.

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Neurological Condition (including Brian Injury, Epilepsy, Speech &amp; Language Disabilities).</b>
Type of Documentation	Evidence of Disability Form OR Existing Report.
Appropriate Professional	Neurological Conditions: Neurologist OR other relevant Consultant.  Speech & Language Disabilities: Speech and Language Therapist.
FSD eligibility	The report from the above should diagnose a significant neurological condition.

Age of report	No age limit.
---------------	---------------

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Physical/mobility</b>
Type of Documentation	Evidence of Disability Form OR Existing Report.
Appropriate Professional	Orthopaedic Consultant OR other relevant specialist appropriate to the disability/condition.
FSD eligibility	The report from the above should diagnose a significant physical or mobility difficulty.
Age of report	No age limit.

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Significant Ongoing Illness</b>
Type of Documentation	Evidence of Disability Form OR Existing Report.
Appropriate Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diabetes Type 1: Endocrinologist OR paediatrician</li> <li>• Cystic Fibrosis: Consultant respiratory physician OR paediatrician</li> <li>• Gastroenterology Conditions: Gastroenterologist</li> <li>• Others: Relevant Consultant in area of condition, or Consultant Registrar.</li> </ul>
FSD eligibility	The report from the above, as appropriate, should diagnose a significant ongoing illness.
Age of report	The report should be no older than five years from the date of needs assessment.

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Specific Learning Difficulties (including Dyslexia and Dyscalculia)</b>
Type of Documentation	FULL Psycho-educational Assessment.
Appropriate Professional	Appropriately qualified Psychologist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body; or, an assessor who is accredited by PATOSS.
FSD eligibility	<p>Full psycho-educational assessment from the above diagnosing a Specific Learning Difficulty. All tests used in the assessment must be current, valid, reliable and age appropriate.</p> <p>In the case of older reports, applicants to the Fund may be asked for their latest assessment scores/educational reports or a communication from the State Examinations</p>
<p>For the purposes of the Fund, the CAO / DARE Evidence of Disability Form is not acceptable evidence of disability for this category of disability.</p>	

	Commission regarding RACE to assist in determining the appropriate level of support.
Age of report	No age limit.

## **Guidelines for General Practitioners (GPs) or Other Health Professionals for Completing Evidence of Disability Form**

If a learner does not have an existing report and has difficulty accessing the appropriate professional to evidence their disability/condition you, their GP or Health Professional, may be in position to complete the Evidence of Disability form. However, the following applies:

- you must have the required information on a clear diagnosis of the learner's disability or condition from one of the appropriate specialists/consultants listed on file;
- you cannot supply information where a full psycho-educational assessment is the requirement. **Where you have completed the Evidence of Disability form, you must attach a copy of the document in which the diagnosis is confirmed.**

### Steps for completion:

1. Review the Guide to Providing Evidence of Disability
2. Check to see if you have information on file from the appropriate professional for that condition
3. If a time limit applies (for example the report must be less than five years old) you must have received information on a diagnosis within that time frame

OR

If the original diagnosis was made prior to this date but the learner was still being seen by this professional after the date and you have correspondence on file to confirm this.

Complete Sections 1 to 7 as appropriate.

4. You **MUST** fully complete Section 2 and including the name of the Consultant/Specialist as appropriate. You must include the date of the most recent report from the Consultant/Specialist as appropriate

AND

Include the date of the original diagnosis. If the date of original diagnosis was several years ago, the year of diagnosis is sufficient. Tick the box to declare you have sufficient information on file to complete the form.

5. When the form is complete you **MUST** sign, stamp and enter your IMC number (where applicable). If you do not have a stamp, headed paper or a business card are sufficient. If you do not have the appropriate information on file to complete the form you should refer the learner on to the appropriate professional for their disability or condition listed on pages 2 and 3 of the form. It is not acceptable for a GP or Health Professional to enter their own diagnosis of a student's condition.