

1. Spirasi Medico Legal Report – Remit Policy

Our remit policy is outlined in our new organisational strategic plan 2018-2020. Spirasi will admit a person to the process for preparation of a medico legal report (MLR process) if he/she falls within one or two of the following categories:

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| 1. It appears that the person has been a victim of torture as defined by the UN Convention of Torture Article 1 (1) “For the purposes of this Convention, the term “torture” means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act her or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, <u>when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.</u> It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions.” [Emphasis added] |
| 2. It appears that the individual has been a victim of inhuman or degrading treatment within the meaning of Article 13(b) of the Qualification Directive (Council Directive 2004/83/EC): <u>“torture or inhuman degrading treatment or punishment of an applicant in the country of origin”.</u> |

Important to Note

Referrals for medico-legal assessment 2019

- Spirasi is committed to reducing the current backlog for medico-legal assessments. As such we are currently prioritising applications in 2019 under **category 1** with a monthly quota for referrals.
- All medical legal report referrals will be reviewed on the third **Wednesday** of each month. Correspondence will follow within a week.
- Applications may be declined if the applicant does not meet the remit criteria or if we have reached our monthly quota.

Priority/Fast tracked appointments

In order to manage current waiting times priority will only be given to cases at the IPAT, or where the IPO specifically requests a Spirasi medico legal report.

2. Spirasi Initial Assessment - Remit Policy

In line with our Remit Policy Spirasi will admit a person for initial assessment if he/she falls within category 1: it appears that the person has been a victim of torture as defined by the UN Convention of Torture Article 1(1).

A referral form must be completed by a GP/health professional to request an initial assessment - to access psychotherapeutic and psychosocial supports. It is not for the purpose of a medico legal assessment.

While Spirasi will prioritize category 1 referrals, it reserves the right to accept referrals, providing capacity allows, in the following situations:

- An individual is severely traumatised as a result of war-related conflict.
- An individual is a victim of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (category 2).

3. Spirasi Outreach - Policy:

As part of our outreach work (currently in accommodation centres in Lisdoonvarna, Baleskin, and Mosney) Spirasi will provide psychosocial support, short term psychotherapeutic interventions and external referral for/to traumatised asylum seekers and refugees. Victims of torture will be identified and internally referred for initial assessment at Spirasi.