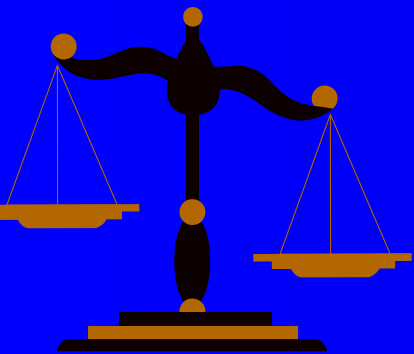


# Reports

DR JOHN GALL, VFPMS



# COMMUNICATIONS TASKS

- Who is going to read your material?
- What do you want to tell them?
- What do they need to know?
- What use will be made of it?
- What are the implications of your opinion?
- What questions will be asked about it?

# CONSENT

- **INFORMED**
- **COMPETENT**
- **SPECIFIC**
- **VOLUNTARY**
- **MAY NEED WRITTEN CONSENT**

# THE MEDICAL REPORT

- USUALLY IN THE FORM OF A STATEMENT
- FORMAT - *use headings*
  - Introduction/Background
  - History
  - Examination
  - Specimens
  - Investigations
  - Treatment
  - Opinion

# THE MEDICAL REPORT INTRODUCTION

- Addressee
- “Statement line”
- Subject with DOB
- Describe who you are
- Qualifications
  - extent of detail depends on circumstances
  - avoid irrelevant detail
- Experience
- ***AVOID USING YOUR PERSONAL/HOME ADDRESS***

# THE MEDICAL REPORT BACKGROUND

- Who was examined
- Who requested examination
- Purpose of examination
- When examined
- Where examined
- Consent (who/relationship)
- Other people present during interview/examination
- Information provided and by whom
- Other sources of information

# THE MEDICAL REPORT HISTORY

- From whom obtained
- Medical (general/psychiatric/gynaecological)
- Assault
  - only relevant points (you are not a policeman)
  - circumstances
  - date/time/location/assailant(s)
  - specific details about assault
    - physical - injuries and causes
    - sexual - penetration/objects/lubricants/injuries/ejaculation
- Verbatim quotations are useful

# THE MEDICAL REPORT

## EXAMINATION FINDINGS

- General appearance of person/clothing
- What was examined/not examined
- Symptoms
- Signs
  - by region
  - number injuries
- Relevant negative findings
- Copies of body charts can be included
- Investigations



# PHOTOGRAPHS

- Are considered part of the report if mentioned and referred to
- Must be individually labeled
- Should be numbered for cross-referencing
- Issues with digital photos
  - Bruises
  - Modification/tampering

# THE MEDICAL REPORT SPECIMENS TAKEN

- Itemised list
- Continuity details

# THE MEDICAL REPORT OPINION

- Objective
- Mention relevant negatives
- Stay within bounds of competence
- Distinguish facts from opinions
- Remember you have only heard one side of the story
- Resist fitting findings to allegations

# THE MEDICAL REPORT JURAT

- Formalises the report
- Countersigned by an appropriate person
- Defines the date and time
- Defines your liability for perjury

**REMEMBER!**

**YOU ARE NOT AN ADVOCATE FOR  
THE PATIENT**

**REMEMBER!**

**OPINIONS - DON'T PAINT YOURSELF  
INTO A CORNER!!**

# REMEMBER!

YOUR REPORT AND YOU TAKE  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS CONTENTS.

DON'T BE BULLIED INTO INCLUDING OR  
EXCLUDING MATERIAL FROM THE  
REPORT BY OTHERS!

QUESTIONS?