



**District Judge (Magistrates' Courts)
2016**

Assessment Centre

**Situational Judgement Exercise -
Applicant Booklet**

Instructions to Applicants

You have 15 minutes to read and prepare your responses to the attached Case Study.

Please read the information attached and prepare your answer to the set question that follows. After your 15 minutes preparation time is up, the Selection Committee will allow you up to 10 minutes to respond to the set question, which will be followed by a number of follow up questions.

When your 10 minutes question and answer time is up, the Selection Committee will then move on to your interview questions. The interview questions will last for a further 20 minutes approximately.

The questions asked in the Case Study are intended to primarily assess the following areas of the Personal Profile (but may also address other aspects of the Personal Profile):

Intellectual Capacity, Knowledge and Expertise

- i) An ability to quickly absorb and analyse information and extract relevant facts in accordance with the applicable rules of evidence and procedure.
- ii) An ability to understand the underlying principles of and operate within unfamiliar areas of law.

Communication

- i) An ability to engage constructively and effectively with judicial colleagues and/or others, as part of a team.
- ii) An ability to produce timely, clear and reasoned written and oral decisions.

You may write notes during the 15 minute preparation time and bring them into the interview to aid you in responding to the questions.

The Case Study is provided overleaf.

Case Study Scenario

Your clerk is calling through those cases in which there were no appearances earlier in list. Case number 76 is called. The defendant, Anne Jones, does not appear and there is no solicitor or barrister to represent her. You see from the papers that she is pleading guilty by post. The case has been adjourned three times previously and if it is adjourned again it will go past the target date for disposal.

When the case was previously adjourned the court had written to her asking her to submit her driving licence and simply advised her of the new court date. She has two previous convictions on her criminal record for speeding offences committed two years ago and six months ago respectively. She received three penalty points for each offence. She has still not submitted her driving licence. She is charged with driving at 106 miles per hour in a 60 mile per hour zone.

Your clerk advises you that the defendant had telephoned the court earlier that day to say that she probably couldn't attend court, although she hoped to, but that she was happy for the case to go ahead in her absence. She just wanted it finished as it was causing her great stress.

In her plea by post she explains that she was rushing to hospital as her son had just been admitted following a serious road traffic collision. She received the news while on her way from a call and she dropped everything to get to hospital. She states that she needs her driving licence for work as she is a District Nurse and travels throughout the rural community visiting the sick and housebound. She says that she is very sorry and promises that it will never happen again.

Please prepare your answers to the set question below:

- 1. What considerations would inform your decision?**