



SIS[®]

SUPPORTS INTENSITY SCALE[®]

A guide to help you understand the SIS[®] interview process in Tennessee

Ascend Management Innovations is partnering with the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) to provide the SIS[®] assessment/interview in Tennessee.



BACKGROUND

The *Supports Intensity Scale*[®] (SIS[®]) is replacing the ICAP as the federally required Universal Assessment of Need for persons supported through Tennessee's Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD).

Any person enrolled in Residential, Day, or Personal Assistant Services should have a SIS[®] assessment/interview completed every 3 years.

WHY THE SIS[®]?

IT'S ALL ABOUT SUCCESS

You are the expert—you tell us what we need to know. Tell us your story.

What does the person need to be successful in everyday activities?

How do the supports you provide improve the person's quality of life?

What supports do you provide that we don't see? Tell us—we want to know.

What could be done differently? What would that look like?

The SIS[®] can:

- Help us all *paint the pictures* of *fuller, more enriching lives* for the men and women supported through the DIDD.
- Be a useful tool for a *more powerful, accurate, and effective ISP*.
- Help you to *think outside the box* and *discover* new skills, interests, and other things you didn't know you didn't know.

When answers on specific SIS[®] behavioral & medical questions indicate that a person has **extraordinary medical or behavioral needs**, SIS[®] interviewers will ask a standard series of **supplemental questions** to gather additional information about these needs.

When these additional questions also **confirm** the likelihood that an individual has extraordinary medical or behavioral needs, DIDD will conduct a **post-interview follow-up** with providers to review documentation verifying and detailing the extent of the extraordinary need.

WHO NEEDS TO ATTEND?
THOSE WHO KNOW THE PERSON
BEST & ARE COMMITTED TO

{ POSITIVE
SUPPORT }



The person for whom the
SIS[®] is being conducted



Parents or other family
members



Direct Support Professionals



ISCs, House Managers,
Advocates, etc.



Neighbors or other community
members who know the person well

The SIS[®] requires **at least 2 respondents** (3 to 4 is ideal) who can **participate in-person for the entire interview**. The above can all be respondents if they meet the following criteria:

- Have known the person for a minimum of 3 months.
- Have spent time with the person for several hours at a time at home, in the community, and/or at their support agency.
- Can speak to what the person needs to be successful throughout his/her day.
- Are open minded to thinking about the person in new and positive ways.



WHO TO CALL

ASCEND MANAGEMENT INNOVATIONS

1.877.431.1388 ext. 3334

- To know when a SIS[®] is scheduled for you, a family member, or someone you support
- To get a copy of the SIS[®] report for a recently completed SIS[®] interview
- To let us know that you will not be able to attend a scheduled SIS[®] interview. This is **very important**—please let us know ASAP if you cannot keep the scheduled appointment.

YOUR ISC OR CASE MANAGER

- With any questions regarding your specific services or support