

Standardized Clinically Based Competency Screening



What is the Standardized Clinically Based Competency Screening?

The Standardized Clinically Based Competency Screening (SCCS) is a screening tool that was developed for use by the State Hospital System to clinically ascertain individuals' progress towards trial competency restoration. The SCCS is not a competency examination under Code of Criminal Procedure, Articles 46B.024 and 46B.025.

What does an SCCS entail?

The SCCS (sometimes referred to as a "competency quick screen") contains brief questions that align with CCP, Art. 46B.024, regarding areas of competency to stand trial. For example, the SCCS reviews the individual's basic understanding of potential consequences of their alleged charges, the four plea options, a plea bargain, and their ability to work with their attorney. The SCCS also considers any current evidence of psychiatric symptoms that may impact the individual's rational competency.

How can the SCCS be helpful?

- May offer a snapshot of an individual's progress toward trial competency restoration.
- May identify specific barriers to trial competency.
- May provide a pathway to most appropriate level of competency restoration services.
- May help determine whether there is evidence of immediate restoration.

How is an SCCS conducted?

When information provided to the Chief of Forensic Medicine team suggests that an individual on the wait list may have restored to trial competency, the following steps occur*:



- Obtain agreement from the defense attorney for the SCCS to be conducted.
- If the defense is agreeable, arrange a virtual meeting between the individual and the screener for SCCS completion.
- Summarize SCCS results and provide to the defense counsel.

*Depending on the county of commitment, there may be a slight variation in the above steps. However, the defense attorney's approval will always be obtained.

Statutory Authority

CCP, Article 46B.0755, Procedures on Credible Evidence of Immediate Restoration

If the court receives credible evidence that the defendant has been restored to competency at any time after the court's determination of incompetency but before state hospital admission, CCP, [Art. 46B.0755](#), sets forth the process by which the court determines if the defendant has been restored to competency.