

Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale (LFDSS)©

Peter A. Lichtenberg, Ph. D., ABPP

Age: _____

Gender: _____

Education: _____

Older Person Should be Able to Communicate

- Choice
- Understanding
- Appreciation
- Rationale

Date: _____

1. What is the financial decision you are making/have made? _____

- Giving a gift / loan** (e.g., paying bills or tuition for grandchild, purchase of home for son to live in)
- Major purchase or sale for self** (home, car, renovations, services, invest in LTC or NH)
- Investment Planning** (retirement, insurance, portfolio balancing)
- Estate planning** (Will, beneficiary, DPOA, add/remove someone from bank account)
- Turn over bill paying to someone else**
- Scam, Fraud, Theft** (suspected)
- Other: _____
- Don't know or inaccurate

2. Was this your idea or did someone suggest it or accompany you?

- My idea
- Someone else suggested/drove me here
- Don't know/inaccurate

3. What is the purpose of your decision?

- Benefit self (meet a need, peace of mind)
- Benefit family (**whom?**)
- Benefit friends (**whom?**)
- Benefit organization/charity (**which?**)
- Please or satisfy someone else (**whom?**)
- Don't know/inaccurate

4. What is the primary financial goal?

- Earn money** (or retain value of investment)
- Reduce tax burden**
- Reduce debt**
- Affordability** of item(s) or service(s)
- Share my wealth after my death**
- Allow someone else to access my money or finances / accounts** (now)
- Gift someone or a charity** (which?)
- Lifestyle** (no \$\$ goal; meet a need/desire)
- Other (describe) _____
- Don't know/inaccurate

5. How will this decision impact you now & over time?

- Improve financial position
- No impact
- Negative impact/debt
- Don't know/inaccurate

Note: If consumer is not sure, PROBE before marking DK.

6. How much risk to your financial well-being is involved?

- Low risk or none
- Moderate risk
- High risk
- Don't know/inaccurate

Note: If consumer is not sure, PROBE before marking DK.

7. How may someone else be negatively affected?

- No one will be negatively affected
- Family members (**who and why?**)
- Someone else (**who and why?**)
- Charity (**which and why?**)
- Don't know/inaccurate

8. Who benefits most from this financial decision?

- I do
- Family
- Friend
- Caregiver
- Charity/organization
- Don't know/inaccurate

9. Does this decision change previous planned gifts or bequests to family, friends, or organizations?

- No
- Yes (**who and why?**)
- Don't know/inaccurate

10. To what extent did you talk with anyone regarding this decision?

- Not at all
- Mentioned it (**to whom?**)
- Discussed in depth (**with whom?**)
- Don't know/inaccurate

LFDSS Decisional Ability Score:

Major Concerns

Some Concerns

No Concerns

APS Case Outcome:

Case Substantiated

Case Unsubstantiated