WRITING A LETTER OF CAPACITY: WHAT DOES THE DOCTOR NEED TO KNOW?

- Past medical history
- Medications
- How long there have been concerns?
- What is being noticed that raises concerns?
- Any recent changes to health/medication?
- Any recent major life events?

- Is the patient at risk for immediate harm to themselves?
- Is the patient being harmed or at risk for harm from someone else (verbal, physical, sexual, financial)?
  - Consider Adult Protective Services (APS)
Vulnerable Adults

• Age 18 or older AND
• Have a mental, developmental, or physical impairment AND
• Is unable to
  a. Make or communicate responsible decisions to manage their own care or resources, OR
  b. Carry out or arrange for essential activities of daily living, OR
  c. Protect oneself from abuse
What is Adult Protective and Community Services (APS)?

APS receives and investigates reports of abuse to vulnerable adults.

APS provides short-term services to protect the health, safety and welfare of vulnerable adults who have been abused, neglected, or financially exploited.
**APS Goals**

**Safety:**
Remedy the abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of a vulnerable adult

**Stabilize:**
the situation through counseling and/or support services

**Respect:**
the individual’s right to self-determination
Legal Obligations

- Autonomy, self-determination
- Protection from abuse and self-neglect
- Housing, safe disposition
Considerations

- Is the patient in a safe living environment?
- Does the patient have the capacity to decide their living arrangements?
- Is the supervision provided adequate?
- At what point, if any, should a report be made to APS? On what grounds?