



**Thetford Community Mental Health Team**

Thetford Community Healthy Living Centre  
Croxton Road  
Thetford  
Norfolk  
IP24 1JD

Telephone: 01842 767676  
Fax: 01842 767675

31<sup>st</sup> October 2011

To Whom It May Concern

**Re: Miles France, Senior Social Worker & AMHP  
Testimonial for Approved Clinician's Initial Approval**

I have spent 30 years practising under both the Mental Health Act 1983 and the Mental Health Act 1959, initially as a Mental Welfare Officer, then as an Approved Social Worker, and more recently as an Approved Mental Health Professional. During that time I have specialised in working with people with mental health problems.

I have known Miles in a professional and personal capacity since 1997, when he started work in the Social Work Mental Health Team of which I was a team member.

A requirement for continuing re-approval as an ASW and AMHP under the Mental Health Act 1983 is to have regular peer debriefing sessions of our practice, as Approved Mental Health Professionals under the MHA. We have engaged in mutual debriefing of our work since 1998. I am therefore in a position to be intimately acquainted with the situations with which Miles has had to deal in his professional work.

Miles has worked with the most complex cases, and has demonstrated the capacity to work under situations of extreme duress, but does not allow his insight and decision making abilities to be compromised by such situations. He is always able to be objective and analytical, reaching decisions that safeguard patients and their carers, while balancing the needs to preserve their rights.

During the time I have been professionally associated with Miles, I have been impressed by his conscientiousness and meticulous approach to his practise. He exhibits exceptional knowledge of the Mental Health Act and associated legislation, as well as other relevant legislation such as the Children's Act. In particular, he exhibits extraordinary knowledge of Case Law of relevance to practise under the Mental Health Act. He demonstrates a profound understanding of the clinical indications of mental illness and mental disorder relating to all ages and categories, as well as the use of medication and other treatments for a wide range of disorders, and uses this knowledge with care

and wisdom. He is also able to share and disseminate this information to service users and professionals.

I would have no hesitation in endorsing Miles' ability to discharge the functions of an Approved Clinician with sensitivity and effectiveness.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S C Matthews', written in a cursive style.

**Steven Matthews**

Cert.Ed, CQSW, MA (Mental Health Studies), Practice Teaching Award  
Senior Social Worker, Approved Mental Health Professional