What happens after the CANS/CAS assessment?

Your Care Manager will share the CANS report or CAS summary with you and meet with you to talk about it.

Whatever you and/or the people who support you say is important to know will be written down, and this information will be used to help develop your Life Plan, or update other documentation, as needed.

If you and/or the people who support you have any questions about the information in your CANS report or CAS summary:

- Ask your Care Manager. Your Care Manager can answer questions about the report or summary.
- If your Care Manager cannot answer your questions, or if you have any concerns, your Care Manager can share those questions with OPWDD.
- OPWDD will contact your Care Manager to talk about or answer your questions and/or concerns,

OR

- You can call OPWDD directly at (518) 473-7484 and leave your name, the name of the person who was assessed, their TABS ID (if known), and a contact phone number.
- An OPWDD CANS/CAS team member will get back to you and help answer your questions.

44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229-0001

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Comprehensive Assessments

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths & Coordinated Assessment System

It's all about you

(866) 946-9733 | NY Relay System 711

www.opwdd.ny.gov

You are at the center of the assessment process

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) and Coordinated Assessment System (CAS)

The CANS and the CAS are assessments that gather information about your strengths, needs, and interests to help your Care Manager create a plan of services and supports that is right for you. The CANS is designed for children and youth (up to age 17) and the CAS is for adults (age 18 and older). Both the CANS and the CAS ensure that the person who receives services is at the center of the planning process.

How do the CANS and CAS work?

A trained assessor will talk to you and other people you choose who know you best about your life: your interests, living skills, health, and existing support systems. The conversation focuses on you, but can include input from others who know you well, such as a person in your circle of support, family members, friends, and/or the people who already provide your supports. The assessor will also look at your past information to make sure they have included everything needed to complete either the CANS or CAS, depending upon your age. This information will be available to your Care Manager, who will share the information with you.

How will the CANS or CAS help me get the right services?

The information you share during the assessment will help your Care Manager develop a Life Plan that will inform which supports are right for you. It's important that you, your family, and support staff describe what you want and need so that your service provider can deliver quality supports and services for you and your family.

If I am already receiving services, do I need to have an assessment?

Everyone receiving services from OPWDD will need a CANS or CAS completed. The information from the assessment will be used to make sure that your services match your needs and interests.

How do I get started?

The assessor will call you to schedule a discussion and will ask your Care Manager to make sure that anyone else that you may want at the discussion, like family members, are included. If you are new and do not have a Care Manager, the assessor will work with you and the people who support you to make sure all the right people are interviewed.

How can I be sure that the CANS or the CAS will work for me?

The CANS and CAS have been tested and validated for use with people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The CANS is designed specifically for children and youth, and the CAS is written to be appropriate for adults.

What about the other assessments OPWDD requires?

You may also be asked to take different types of assessments. Several are required by law and regulation, and some are additional service planning tools used by Care Managers. All provide critical information to help ensure services will meet each person's needs. Some of the assessments that you might encounter are:

Developmental Disabilities Profile - 2 (DDP-2)	Required	Used as the functional needs assessment, will be replaced by CANS and CAS in the future
CAS/CANS	Required	Used as the functional needs assessment, will replace DDP-2 in the future
IAM or other CCO tools	Optional	Used in person-centered planning as a tool to prepare a Life Plan; Care Managers can use the IAM or a different planning tool
Adaptive functioning evaluations, psycho-social evaluations and other evaluations specific to clinical disciplines and/or services requested	Required but dependent on services being requested or receiving	Used to demonstrate eligibility for OPWDD services

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