

Forensic Psychology



An Overview...

Forensic Psychology is an area of specialization involving psychological evaluations, neuropsychological testing, and expert witness testimony during criminal, family, and juvenile court proceedings. Forensic psychology is the term given to the applied and clinical facets of psychology and law. Forensic psychologists might help a judge decide which parent should have custody of the children or evaluate the victim of an accident to determine if he or she sustained psychological or neurological damage. Forensic psychologists might also evaluate a defendant's mental competence to stand trial, counsel inmates and probationers, or counsel the victims of crimes and help them prepare to testify, cope with emotional distress, and resume their normal activities.

Skills:

Ability to analyze details and write technical documents

Ability to interpret research

Ability to observe and analyze

Exhibit strong interpersonal communication skills and a sensitivity to others

Ability to mediate, and contribute policy or program guidelines

Provide assessment/evaluation of offenders and management of risk and danger

Work with life sentenced prisoners and develop prison regimes

Create and deliver staff training; develop offending behavior programs

Conduct search and present evaluation of data

Some Professional Careers:

Jobs for people with doctoral degrees are available in psychology departments, law schools, research organization, community mental health agencies, law enforcement agencies, courts, and correctional settings. Some forensic psychologists work in private practice. Master's positions are available in prisons, correctional institutions, probation departments, forensic units of mental institutions, law enforcement agencies, and community based programs that assist victims.

Family therapist

Criminal therapist

Qualified medical evaluator

Lawyer

Counseling psychologist

Developmental psychologist

Hiring Organizations:

Adoption/child care agencies

Churches/religious groups

Clinics/hospitals

Colleges/universities

Community organizations

Courts/correctional institutions

Nursing homes

Orphanages

Personnel departments

Prisons

Research firms

Social service agencies

Educational periodicals
Government agencies
Medical schools
Mental health associations

Test development corporations
Volunteer agencies
Youth organizations

Professional Organizations:

American Academy of Forensic
Psychology
c/o Alan M. Goldstein, PhD
13 Arden Dr.
Hartsdale, NY 10530 USA
(914) 693-7760
www.aafp.ws
email: alanmg@optonline.net

American Board of Professional Psychology
300 Drayton St., 3rd Fl.
Savannah, GA 31401 USA
(912) 234-5477
800-255-7792
www.abpp.org
email: office@abpp.org

American Association for Correctional and
Forensic Psychology
c/o Mr. David Randall, Sec.-Treas.
PO Box 7642
Wilmington, NC 28406 USA
(805) 489-0665
www.aa4cfp.org
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Society for Police and Criminal Psychology
c/o Gary S. Aumiller, PhD, Exec. Dir.
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