

Chapter 1

What is Forensic Psychology?

- Each book is different- scope of material is so wide
 - Silence of the Lambs; CSI
- Definition
 - Narrow- focuses on practical application, yet it excludes aspects of the profession
 - Broad- attempts to include all aspects of the discipline, focusing on practical application as well as the research needed to inform applied practice
- Generally, forensic psychology can be defined as a field of psychology that deals with all aspects of human behavior that relate to the legal system

Roles of a Forensic Psychologist

Clinical forensic psychologists focus on mental health issues as they apply to the legal system

Qualifications for a license to practice clinical forensic psychology

- Some issues Clinical Forensic psychologists engage in:
 - Divorce and child custody mediation- "**best interest**" evaluations (state law)
 - Written report about recommendation on custody and visitation rights
 - Best interest of a child
 - Evaluations are intended to provide the court with best interest of a child
 - Psych are ethically obligated
 - Evaluation Process: What factors go into deciding the best interest of the child?
 - Interviews with children and parents (separate and together)

- Observations
 - View all documentation
 - Medical records
 - Pediatricians
 - Job employees/er
 - Child services records
 - Interview family and friends
 - School records (grades)
 - Therapists (school therapists)
 - Psychological Testing
 - IQ Testing
 - Court (called the client) holds the privilege of being the employer
- Determinations of insanity and fitness to stand trial
 - Providing expert testimony in court on questions of a psychological nature
 - Personnel selection (ex law enforcement selection)
 - Conducting critical incident stress debriefings with police

Experimental forensic psychologists engage in research regarding human behavior in relation to the legal system

- o Possible research areas
 - Examining the effectiveness of risk assessment strategies
 - Determining what factors influence jury decision making

- Developing and testing better ways to conduct eyewitness lineups
- Evaluating offender and victim treatment programs
- Studying the impact of questioning style on eyewitness memory recall
 - Can be a offenders recall too
 - Cant have bias question
- Examining the effect of stress management intervention on police officers

Relationship Between Psychology and LAW

- Haney (1980) three ways in which psychology and the law interact
 - o Psychology and the law
 - The use of psychology to study the operation of the legal system
 - o Psychology in the law
 - The use of psychology within the legal system as it currently operates
 - o Psychology of the law
- OZ show- documentary of Oswald penitentiary
 - o Solitary confinement
- Lawsuit in California
 - o Haney was star witness about the effects of solitary confinement on an inmate

History of Forensic Psychology

- Dates back to the late 1800s
- Early research in the area centered on eyewitnesses testimony and suggestibility
- Munsterberg's on the witness stand (1908)