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Expert Profile:

Forensic Psychologist and Expert Witness with extensive court experience in Civil, Criminal and Family Court cases. He currently is a forensic psychologist on staff at Rutgers University Biomedical Health service, specializing in criminal behavior and risk assessment as well as a forensic psychologist consultant for the Rockland County (NY) court evaluation service, where he has performed hundreds of child custody, as well as criminal competency and child abuse/neglect evaluations. In Civil cases, Dr. Heller is retained by both plaintiff and defense counsel to assess plaintiffs for emotional and mental injury. He takes an unbiased, ethical approach to assessments and follows a scientist-practitioner approach. He is an expert in objective evaluations that assess the probability the plaintiff is suffering PTSD, other emotional injuries or if there is exaggeration of symptoms based upon psychological testing and other data. He has expertise in cases that involve group home/residential schools, provider negligence and assaults. In criminal cases, Dr. Heller is experienced in providing successful rebuttal testimony explaining the scientific issues related to the problems of validity, reliability and usefulness of "Syndrome evidence" such as Child Sexual Abuse accommodation Syndrome" and "Rape trauma syndrome." He testifies in child sexual abuse cases and explains research related to false allegations, recantations, memory, suggestibility, child testimony, interview protocols and "Believed-In Imaginings" in children and adults.. He has expertise in domestic violence and has assessed women who have been victims of intimate partner violence and "Battered Women Syndrome" that contributed to homicides, assaults and other felonies by the victims of abuse. He is a fully vetted and approved forensic psychologist for the N.J. Office of the Public Defender as well as other Public Defender offices. (Federal Public Defender, Legal Aid in Manhattan, Bronx, Kings and the NYC assigned counsel program). He often travels throughout the US as a forensic consultant in important court cases including military Court Martials, death row assessment, sexual abuse, assault and multiple homicides. He is well known and respected among his colleagues as a clinician and as a forensic psychologist/expert witness.

Areas of Expertise:

- Psychological Record Review
- Evaluations and Testimony
- Addictions and Alcoholism
- Criminal Defense
- Critical Incident Stress Effects
- Agency Administration and Supervision
- Disabilities (emotional, mental, retardation, Autism)
- Litigation Consultation
- Battered Woman Syndrome
- Domestic /Intimate Partner Violence
- Assessment of potential for false allegations of child sex abuse or domestic violence
- "Death Row" Evaluations of Condemned Prisoners
- Sexual Abuse/Assault
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Alcoholism/Drugs
- Psychological Autopsy
- Risk Assessment for Re-Offense of Sexual
- Assault and other Violent Crime
- Police Officers and Stress
- Assessment of Pain and Suffering
- Child Custody, Visitation & Family Issues
- Independent Medical Examinations
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Standards of Treatment in Group Homes
- Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Syndrome Suicide
- Assessment of Capacity to Waive Miranda Rights
- "Rejection Crisis" Related to Homicide
- Consultation to Insurance Company Regarding Aspects of Suicide
- Relocation and Removal Evaluations in Custody Cases
- Pre-Parole Risk Assessments
- Rebuttal to Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome (CSAAS) and Rape Syndrome

Professional Experience:

2012- Present: Forensic Psychologist, Rutgers Biomedical Health Service (UCHC)
2011- Present: Forensic Consultant, Bergen Family Center, Hackensack, NJ
2006- Present: Forensic Consultant: Rockland County Forensic Mental Health Unit
2006-Present: Psychologist expert: Assigned Counsel and Law Guardian Programs, State of New York
1981-Present: Independent Clinical Practice
1988-1993: Clinical Director, Dutchess County Clinic for Multi-Disabled
1983-1988: Director of Mental Health, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
1982-1983: Consulting School Psychologist, New York City Board of Education

License/Certifications:

Licensed Psychologist (NY, NJ)
Licensed Marriage and family Therapist (NY)
National register of Council of health Service Providers in Psychology
Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (State Reciprocity)
Certificate in Clinical Training in Psychology (NJ)
Certificate in Family Forensics (Washington Square Institute, NY)

Education:

Ph.D. 1979: University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI Dissertation: "Criminal Behavior and Arousal: Test of a Theory"
M.A. 1974: St. John's University, Jamaica, NY (Clinical Psychology)

Professional Memberships/Associations: Recent Presentation:

American Psychological Association
The American Assoc. for Marriage and Family Therapy, Clinical Member
The Virginia Satir Avanta Network
With Linda Gunsberg, PhD "A Child's Preference for the Batterer in Child Custody Cases: An Assessment Protocol." A workshop presented at the 49th Annual Conference of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC). Chicago, IL: June 7, 2012.

Recent and Future Publications:

Submitted for publication: "A Child's Paradoxical Preference for the Batterer in Child Custody Cases: Consideration of domestic violence, diminished parental capacity, impaired attachment, traumatic bonding, parental alienation, as well as developmental failures and short and/or long-term psychological injuries to the child."

Heller, C. 2009. Applications of parental acceptance-rejection theory and evidence to forensic psychology. *Interpersonal Acceptance*, 3, 3, 1-2, 5.