

MICHIGAN CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
JOB SPECIFICATION

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST

JOB DESCRIPTION

Employees in this job, as certified Consulting Forensic Examiners, perform psychodiagnostic examinations ordered by the courts to provide a variety of forensic assessments, including determining competency to stand trial or criminal responsibility (legal insanity). Employees might also provide cognitive, behaviorally oriented, or other types of individual therapeutic treatment to patients assigned to the Center for Forensic Psychiatry. Work is performed through the application of a body of knowledge related to professional psychologist methods, practices, procedures, policies, and regulations; and materials and equipment of the psychologist service.

There are two classifications in this job.

Position Code Title - Forensic Psychologist-E

Forensic Psychologist 11

This is the entry level. The employee receives specialized training in forensic psychology to attain certification as a Consulting Forensic Examiner. The employee conducts clinical interviews, gathers and reviews medical and psycho-social data, administers and interprets psychological tests, and performs other psychodiagnostic examinations as ordered by the courts to provide forensic assessments to determine competency to stand trial and other forensic issues. The employee might also serve as a member of a multi-disciplinary treatment team and provide therapeutic treatment to individuals assigned to the Center for Forensic Psychiatry. The employee works under the close supervision of a certified Consulting Forensic Examiner. Work is performed within the regulations, laws, procedures, policies, and guidelines of the State of Michigan and the Administrative Rules of the Departments of Health and Human Services and Corrections. Possession of a full license to practice psychology in Michigan and successful completion of in-service training resulting in certification as a Consulting Forensic Examiner by the Center for Forensic Psychiatry is required within one year after appointment to the Forensic Psychologist 11. If the employee does not receive full licensure and certification as a Consulting Forensic Examiner, they will be separated.

Position Code Title - Forensic Psychologist-A

Forensic Psychologist 12

This is the advanced level. The employee, as a certified Consulting Forensic Examiner, provides expert witness testimony and consultation to court officials relative to an individual's competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility (legal insanity), or other forensic issues. The employee might also serve as a member of a multi-disciplinary treatment team and provide therapeutic treatment to individuals assigned to the Center of Forensic Psychiatry. The employee works with a great deal of independence, within the regulations, laws, procedures, policies, and guidelines of the State of Michigan and the Administrative Rules of the Departments of Health and Human Services and Corrections.

JOB DUTIES

NOTE: The job duties listed are typical examples of the work performed by positions in this job classification. Not all duties assigned to every position are included, nor is it expected that all positions will be assigned every duty.

Conducts a variety of psychodiagnostic examinations ordered by the courts to provide forensic assessment to determine competency to stand trial, or to evaluate other mental health conditions that could affect legal proceedings.

Provides consultation to court officials regarding the psychological state of individuals.

Appears in courts of law as an expert witness, attesting to findings regarding an individual's competency to stand trial or other forensic issues.

Reviews psychological information relative to legal requirements for determination of competency to stand trial for an alleged illegal act, formulates opinion, and makes diagnosis.

Prepares written reports for the courts detailing psychological findings upon which conclusions and recommendations are based.

Interviews subject matter experts, family members of the accused, witnesses, police officers, and others to assist in reaching conclusions regarding the psychological condition of the accused at the time of the offense.

Maintains current knowledge of laws and acts that affect the field of forensic psychology.

Conducts research regarding specific psychological conditions and their forensic relationship; publishes findings in scientific journals.

Presents information regarding forensic psychology to various groups and professional associations.

Formulates treatment plans, screens referrals for psychological testing, conducts psychological testing, and provides consultation and training to other ward staff for a caseload of patients assigned to the Center for Forensic Psychiatry.

Serves as a member of the facility's multi-disciplinary treatment team.

Provides cognitive, behaviorally oriented, or other types of individual therapy to patients.

Performs related work as assigned.

Additional Job Duties

Forensic Psychologist 12 (Senior Worker)

Provides expert witness testimony in courts of law as a certified Consulting Forensic Examiner.

Conducts psychological assessments to determine criminal responsibility for illegal acts.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

NOTE: Considerable knowledge is required at the entry level and thorough knowledge is required at the advanced level.

Knowledge of the principles and practices of clinical psychology, including psychodiagnostic, therapeutic, and research methodologies.

Knowledge of emotional and social, psychological and environmental problems, and techniques applicable in their alleviation.

Knowledge of techniques for observing and assessing behavior.

Knowledge of abnormal psychology.

Knowledge of counseling methods and techniques.

Knowledge of experimental and research techniques.

Knowledge of psychometric techniques and the techniques of conducting objective interviews.

Knowledge of the types and uses of standardized psychological tests, including those applicable in testing the socially or emotionally maladjusted.

Knowledge of statistical techniques used in the validation of tests, and in the study of behavior.

Knowledge of and adherence to the American Psychological Association's ethical principles of psychologists, with particular emphasis on those principles bearing on forensic assessments.

Ability to successfully complete specialized training in forensic psychology and to obtain certification as a Consulting Forensic Examiner.

Ability to conduct psychodiagnostic examinations on and provide treatment to mentally ill and sometimes dangerous individuals.

Ability to prepare concise reports detailing findings and conclusions of psychological evaluations.

Ability to provide testimony in courts of law relative to the psychological state of individuals and its impact on their ability to stand trial.

Ability to interpret, in lay terms, complex psychological conditions and resultant behavioral traits.

Ability to conduct research, prepare reports, and educate others on matters of forensic psychology.

Ability to work as a member of a team.

Ability to maintain current knowledge of forensic psychology and its relationship with the legal system.

Ability to withstand pressure under extremely stressful conditions.

Ability to interview others to obtain insight into the behavior of individuals accused of criminal conduct.

Additional Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Forensic Psychologist 12 (Senior Worker)

Ability to provide expert witness testimony, as a certified Consulting Forensic Examiner, in courts of law.

Ability to conduct psychological assessments to determine criminal responsibility for illegal acts.

Working Conditions

The work requires travel to various areas of the state.

Some jobs require an employee to work in a hostile environment.

Some jobs require direct contact with prisoners and/or patients.

Physical Requirements

The job duties require an employee to work under stressful conditions.

Education

Possession of a Ph.D. or Psy.D. from an accredited psychology program.

Experience

Forensic Psychologist 11

No specific type or amount is required.

Forensic Psychologist 12

One year of experience as a Forensic Psychologist 11 at the Center for Forensic Psychiatry.

Special Requirements, Licenses, and Certifications

Forensic Psychologist 12:

Possession of a full license to practice psychology in Michigan.

Certification as a Consulting Forensic Examiner by the Center for Forensic Psychiatry.

NOTE: Equivalent combinations of education and experience that provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities will be evaluated on an individual basis.

JOB CODE, POSITION TITLES AND CODES, AND COMPENSATION INFORMATION

Job Code

FORNSCPSY

Job Code Description

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST

Position Title

Forensic Psychologist-E

Forensic Psychologist-A

Position Code

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Pay Schedule

W22-047

W22-049

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05/03/2020