



AMERICAN  
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# Forensic Resources in PsycINFO

APA DATABASES & ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

## Topics in PsycINFO of Relevance to Forensics

PsycINFO is a research database published by the American Psychological Association. Forensic psychologists and other legal professionals can use it to locate literature that demonstrates how to apply research in human behavior to the fields of criminal investigation and the law.

### Sample Searches in Forensic Research

**Scenario:** A forensic psychologist providing a child custody evaluation for a family mediation center is looking for information.

**Search:** *Child Custody AND Forensic Evaluation*

**Results:** Articles and chapters on custody criteria assessment in general, and specific information on investigating charges of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

**Scenario:** A psychologist providing psycholegal services for clients in her state is interested in research on mental disability and competence to stand trial in a criminal court.

**Search:** *Mental Disorders AND Criminal Responsibility*

**Results:** Articles and chapters on decision making, ability to recognize whether an act is wrong, and neurosciences contribution to forensic evaluation.

**Scenario:** A lawyer preparing a brief in a civil case is interested in information on the influence on jurors of expert testimony about eyewitnesses.

**Search:** *Expert Testimony AND Witnesses AND Juries*

**Results:** Articles and chapters on how juror decision making is affected by expert witness testimony on eyewitness performance and questions and issues for which the litigator should be prepared.



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## Selected Search Terms

The search terms provided here are just a few excerpts from the many relevant terms in PsycINFO's thesaurus. If you aren't sure how to use these terms (called Subject Terms, Subject Headings, or Index Terms depending on your interface), check with your librarian or consult the PsycINFO Quick Reference Guide you may also have received at the same time as this handout.

### Forensic Evaluation

- Competence to Stand Trial
- Criminal Responsibility
- Mental Disorders
- Psychological Assessment
- Risk Factors

### Institutionalization

- Halfway Houses
- Institutional Schools
- Mental Health Services
- Mentally Ill Offenders
- Psychiatric Hospitals

### Criminal Behavior

- Antisocial Behavior
- Impulse Control Disorders
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Recidivism
- Violent Crime

### Treatment

- Case Management
- Drug Therapy
- Informed Consent
- Involuntary Treatment
- Psychotherapy

### Diagnoses

- Dementia
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual
- Dissociative Disorders
- Mental Disorders
- Psychodiagnosis
- Schizophrenia

### Expert Testimony

- Cognitive Bias
- Forensic Evaluation
- Measurement
- Professional Ethics
- Risk Assessment

### Judicial Decision Making

- Adjudication
- Criminal Conviction
- Juries
- Legal Decisions
- Witnesses

### Civil Rights

- Human Rights
- Incarceration
- Laws
- Mental Health
- Rehabilitation

### Conflict Resolution

- Child Custody
- Divorce
- Family
- Intervention
- Mediation



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