

Forensic Psychological Assessment: Diagnosing, Ethics, Measurement, and the Clinical Road Map

Forensic Psychological Assessment: Diagnosis, Ethics, Measurement, and the Clinical Road Map is a comprehensive professional development session designed for clinicians, forensic practitioners, and mental health professionals who operate at the intersection of psychology and the legal system. Led by Dr. Ronald J. Esteve, this presentation delivers a rigorous, evidence-based framework spanning nineteen critical modules—from the foundational role of the forensic practitioner and diagnostic decision-making using DSM-5 and ICD-10, to the psychometric pillars of validity, reliability, and standardized measurement. Attendees will explore the full clinical workflow, including differential diagnosis, severity and remission tracking, symptom analysis, and clinical formulation, while also navigating the complex ethical terrain of confidentiality, mandatory reporting, digital record security, and the duty to protect.

Target Audience		
Psychologists	Social Workers	Counselors
Therapists	Psychiatrists	Nurses
Course level: Intermediate		

Learning Objectives

- At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:
1. Distinguish between evaluative, expert witness, therapeutic, and fact-finding forensic roles, as well as mediation and parenting coordination functions.
 2. Apply the rational rules for differential diagnosis by ranking at least three provisional diagnoses from most to least likely, using the precedence rule, law of parsimony, and frequency hierarchy.
 3. Select the appropriate validity and reliability indicators (e.g., test-retest, concurrent, construct validity, or Cronbach's alpha).
 4. Identify duty-to-protect thresholds and apply the five-key suicide risk assessment questions accurately determining when mandatory reporting is triggered and which confidentiality exceptions apply.
 5. Identify at least four of the ten common assessment mistakes such as base rate impact, confirmation bias, mismatched validity, or directionality errors and then be able to propose a corrective action for each identified flaw.

Seminar Schedule

The webinar outline is attached. See the Live Webinar

Outline

Begin at 10:00 AM ET

The role of the Forensic Evaluator

Diagnostic and Psychometric Foundations including the 8 Pillars of Assessment

Diagnostic Decision Making including Assessing Severity Levels, Symptom Analysis and Impairment

Rational Rules for Differential Diagnosis

Break 11:30-11:45 AM ET

Ethics/Criticisms of Diagnostic Labeling including Clinical Formulation and Levels of Care

Risk Management and the Duty to Warn, Predict and Protect
Historical Evolution of Psychological Testing

Basic Principles of Standardized Measurement

Variables, Levels of Measurement and the Pragmatic Application of Validity and Reliability

10 Most Common Assessment Mistakes

Objective Test Types and What They Measure

The Forensic Interview and Assessment Road Map with Templates and Review of APA Guidelines
End 1:15 PM ET

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Continuing Education Credit

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The Presenter

Dr. Ronald Esteve offers more than 45 years of focused, results-driven experience as a Clinical, Counseling and Forensic Psychologist serving individuals, couples, children, adolescents, families and professionals. He earned his PhD from the State University of New York in 1980 and has been in practice since that time. He currently serves a broad spectrum of patients through his private practice.

Among Dr. Esteve's areas of expertise are the treatment of children, couples and single parents with crisis intervention, play therapy, individual therapy, parenting education and consultation, and executive leadership development. Dr. Esteve works with a wide range of emotional and behavioral issues providing services that span therapy for depression and grief counseling to parenting support and couples counseling.

Through his noted work as a prominent relationship therapist, Dr. Esteve has been invited to present at national and local conferences and organizations, within the court system, and to general audiences on topics in parenting, child development, family stress, custody disputes and the impact on children, post traumatic stress disorder, learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder and leadership growth. He has served as an adjunct professor at Chestnut Hill College, educating masters and doctoral level candidates in their Graduate Psychology Division and has supervised doctoral candidates in their clinical training toward licensure.

Dr. Esteve has been appointed by the courts and qualified as an expert in numerous jurisdictions throughout the United States to conduct evaluations and make recommendations to the court in a variety of areas.

An interactive, solution-focused therapist, Dr. Esteve's therapeutic approach is to provide support and practical feedback to help patients/clients effectively address all of life's challenges and reach personal, family, and professional success.

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This seminar has been reviewed and approved by Keith Hannan, Ph.D., Laura Davie, LICSW, Tina Jenkins, Psy.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2028.

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