



# Essentials of Forensic Psychological Assessment

By Marc J. Ackerman

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## Essentials of Forensic Psychological Assessment By Marc J. Ackerman

Quickly acquire the knowledge and skills you need to confidently administer, score, and interpret the key assessment instruments used by forensic psychologists

Mental health professionals are frequently called on to perform forensic assessments for a wide variety of court cases. To use these instruments properly, professionals need an authoritative source of advice and guidance on how to administer, score, and interpret them. Now fully revised and in a second edition, *Essentials of Forensic Psychological Assessment* is that source.

The *Second Edition* is completely updated to reflect current research and theory in the field, including the most recent codes and standards published by the American Psychological Association. In addition, this volume offers updated coverage of the most frequently used instruments in forensic psychological assessments, including the MMPI®-2 and MMPI-2-RF, PAI®, Rorschach®, ASPECT, and various neuropsychological assessment instruments.

Like all the volumes in the *Essentials of Psychological Assessment* series, this book is designed to help busy mental health practitioners, and those in training, quickly acquire the knowledge and skills they need to make optimal use of major psychological assessment instruments. Each concise chapter features numerous callout boxes highlighting key concepts, bulleted points, and extensive illustrative material, as well as test questions that help you gauge and reinforce your grasp of the information covered.

Written by a noted forensic psychologist, the *Second Edition* offers in-depth coverage of maltreatment and domestic violence, as well as the assessment of recidivism, fitness to stand trial, civil commitment, substance abuse assessment, custody evaluations, personal injury assessments, and many other aspects of forensic mental health practice.



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Ackerman proposes commendably high standards in the practice of assessment in forensic settings, both in terms of the choice of valid, reliable and informative tests and, in terms of the presentation of the findings based on strong, defensible evidence." (Legal and Criminological Psychology, Sep 2001)

#### From the Back Cover

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There are various psychological areas that must be addressed when performing forensic assessments. In order to do this properly, professionals need an authoritative source of advice and guidance on how to administer, score, and interpret these tests. Written by a noted forensic psychologist, *Essentials of Forensic Psychological Assessment* is the first and only book to provide forensic psychologists and other mental health professionals involved in court cases with state-of-the-art interpretive and administrative guidelines for the most widely used assessment tools (including the ASPECT, BPS, PCRI, TSI, MPS, MMPI-2, and the WAIS-III).

This book covers custody cases, expert witness assessment, fitness to stand trial, civil commitment, substance abuse assessment, and many other aspects of forensic mental health practice. The author provides information on the validity of each test, compares their relative strengths and weaknesses, and offers valuable advice on clinical applications. Each concise chapter features numerous callout boxes highlighting key concepts, bulleted points, and extensive illustrative material, as well as test questions that help you gauge and reinforce your grasp of the information covered.

Other titles in the *Essentials of Psychological Assessment* series.

#### About the Author

**MARC J. ACKERMAN, PhD**, Chair of the Forensic Psychology Program at the Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology, is a forensic and clinical psychologist and expert on personal injury and child custody. He maintains a counseling and consulting practice in Milwaukee and is the author of several books for psychologists and lawyers on the topic of child custody, including Wiley's *Clinician's Guide to Child Custody Evaluations, Third Edition* and *"Does Wednesday Mean Mom's House or Dad's?": Parenting Together While Living Apart, Second Edition*. He has been involved in thousands of personal injury and custody evaluation cases and is the cocreator of ASPECT, a major child-custody evaluation instrument.

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