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Knowledge, Clarity and Passion at the Intersection of Psychology and Law.

Checklist for Reviewing Juvenile Competency Reports and Preparing for Trial

Name of Expert/Witness:

Phone Number:

Email:

I. REVIEWING THE REPORT (FROM YOUR EXPERT OR THEIRS):

a. Does the report indicate:

i. The reason for the referral?

Yes

No

ii. Which records were relied upon in forming the clinical opinion?

Yes

No

1. Do you have those records and agree with how the information was described?

Yes

No

iii. Which tests were conducted and when?

Yes

No

iv. Who was interviewed, when, where, and for how long?

Yes

No

v. A section containing background information and clearly indicating who provided the information?

Yes

No

Notes/Impressions:

- *Continued*

vi. If tests were administered, an explanation of the purpose of the test and of the results?

Yes No

vii. Mental status and behavioral observation sections?

Yes No

viii. Data, separate from the opinion, regarding the defendant's fitness abilities including the defendant's:

1. Explanation of the current case?

Yes No

2. Explanation of the current outcomes?

Yes No

3. Explanation of the role of the judge, defense attorney, ASA, and jury?

Yes No

4. Explanation of how the youth would reason about a potential plea bargain?

Yes No

5. Understanding of the attorney/client relationship?

Yes No

6. Understanding of the youth's role in the defense?

Yes No

ix. A clinical opinion section:

1. Does it include a clear explanation of the data used to support the clinical opinion?

Yes No

Notes/Impressions:

- *Continued*

2. If applicable, does it include an opinion and data regarding:

- Likelihood of obtaining fitness within the required time?

Yes No

- Need for treatment?

Yes No

II. PREPARING FOR TRIAL:

a. Have you reviewed the expert's:

i. CV?

Yes No

ii. Raw Data?

Yes No

iii. Notes?

Yes No

b. Have you reviewed literature regarding juvenile fitness evaluations (see bibliography)?

Yes No

c. Have you prepped with your expert?

Yes No

i. Has your expert identified potential weaknesses in his/her report?

Yes No

ii. Has your expert reviewed the opposing expert's CV, raw data, notes, and report?

Yes No

Notes/Impressions: