



Welcome to your CPA-Forensic Division

Strengthening Connecticut's forensic psychological community.



Juvenile Courts

There are two sides to the juvenile court system in Connecticut. The Juvenile court handles both delinquency and child protection issues.

On the delinquency side, Connecticut provides evaluations for some Court



Links

Child Protection Links

It is important to stay on top of ethics and best practices. A good place to start is the 2013 [APA's Guidelines for Child Protection Matters](#).

If you wish to do child protection evaluations you must be on a list of evaluators. You can find the

involved children and youth via the Juvenile Court Based Assessment Service. Referrals for these evaluations are made by Court Order either directly from the bench or upon recommendation to the Court by Clinical Coordinators based at the Juvenile Courts. Independent Psychologists conduct various evaluations under Orders of the Court, including Psychological Assessments (e.g. intelligence testing; personality assessment; etc.), Assessments of Educational Achievement, Substance Abuse Evaluations, Assessments of Adaptive Functioning, Psychosocial Evaluations, and Violence Risk Assessments. The purpose of these evaluations is to assess for mental health issues and/or educational, family, and psychosocial concerns and to provide guidance to the Court in addressing any such issues, including via referrals to a continuum of care available to Court involved children and youth (cognitive-behavioral therapy; family support services; in home counseling; etc.).

Child Protection refers to families involved with the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Forensic psychologists involved on the CPS side of things are usually hired as neutral evaluators by the court. The mandate is to evaluate the family and determine the child's best interest. Typical issues include families with histories of substance abuse, coercive control, child abuse, sexual abuse and, of course, mental illness. The court relies on these evaluations to determine the best placement for the children, best treatment for the families and whether parental rights should be terminated.

information you need on the [CT.gov website](#). Once you are on a list, get to know the Court Service Officers (CSOs) in your area. They are the gatekeepers.

If the idea of being involved in child protection mediation is interesting, please look at the information on the [CT.gov website](#). You should also look at the [AFCC Guidelines for Child Protection Mediation](#), a well thought out and carefully worded document.

Delinquency Links

If you are interested in the delinquency world, a powerhouse of information and research is found in the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#). The website has statistics (be still my beating heart) and many interesting publications. They have a [newsletter called JustInfo](#), which is delivered to your inbox twice a month and is completely free.

Juvenile evaluations are different than adult evaluations, as juvenile decision making is so different that that of adults. One of the best books is the 2013 update of [Forensic Evaluation of Juveniles by Thomas Grisso](#). If the issue is competence to stand trial, an excellent resource is [Evaluation of Juveniles' Competence to Stand Trial](#), a volume in the incredibly practical and star studded [Best Practices in Forensic Mental Health Assessment series](#).

Being a child protection evaluator is deeply satisfying and incredibly important for these children.

Connecticut's juvenile courts also offer child protection mediation. This cutting edge program allows parents who are in crisis to have their voices heard through the mediation process. It can be used for any important issue such as permanency review and guardianship. It is often used to provide a humane termination process. When a parent cannot parent their child, it requires incredible courage to sign over their parental rights. Sitting in room with the adoptive parents, social workers and everyone's lawyers gives them the opportunity to feel like valued players, rather than the incidental casualty of a large system.

Delinquency information provided by:

Ralph P. Balducci, Ph.D.
Psychologist
260 Riverside Avenue
Westport, CT 06880
(203) 222-7929
[BAL36@att.net](mailto:RAL36@att.net)
www.DrRalphBalducci.com

Child protection Information provided by:

Stephanie Stein Leite, Psy.D.
Clinical Forensic Psychologist
Threat Assessment Professional
P.O. Box #272, Granby, CT 06035
(mail)



CPA Trainings

Joint Event with the Connecticut State Medical Society

CPA is joining up with CSMS to host a program – *Improving Quality of Care and Cost Effectiveness: Evolving Models of Collaboration Among Mental Health & Health Care Providers* on Wednesday, June 18th 6:00-9:00 pm at the CT Children's Medical Center, Conklin Auditorium. Cost for CPA members is \$40 and \$75 for non-members. Register online today at www.csms.org.

ICD-10 & 11 with Carol Goodheart, PhD – June 20th

CPA is hosting an ICD-10 & 11 workshop on June 20th, 9am – 12 Noon at Gaylord Hospital with presenter Carol Goodheart. This workshop includes both ICD-10-CM and ICD-11, and is designed to prepare practitioners for the 2 stage process of change. Insiders believe postponement of ICD-10-CM past the congressional mandated date of October 2015 is highly unlikely. Adoption of ICD-11 has been postponed until 2017 by WHO. While we are still waiting for guidance from HHS about details of ICD-10-CM for next year, we do know that insurers have already spent up to \$6 billion on implementing it.

2446 Albany ave, Suite #301, West
Hartford, CT 06117 (office)
860-729-2613
stephanie@drleite.com
www.drleite.com

Registration materials are available on the
CPA website www.connpsych.org.

ReMoved



If you would like to see an amazing short movie from the perspective of a child in foster care, please watch ReMoved, by clicking [here](#). This film was created for the 168 film festival and tells the story of a girl removed from her home and then removed again and again and again. Though we know what the research says about moving children over and over again, this 12 minute short tells it so much better than statistics.

Media

Look for the Connecticut Psychological Association: Forensic Division on Linked In. You have to be approved. If you would like an invitation, [email](#).

Forensic Division Board

[David Bernstein, Ph.D - President](#)
[James Connolly, Ph.D - Vice President](#)
[Stephanie Leite, Psy.D - Secretary/Treasurer](#)

Upcoming board elections at the CPA fall conference.

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