SPECIALTY EVALUATIONS

JUST THE FACTS

- IQ scores obtained before age 4 or so can be highly unstable. These scores become relatively stable after age 4 1/2 and continue to stabilize as children get older.
- 75 percent of Fortune 500 companies utilize psychometric profiling for recruitment and employee skill assessments.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Psychological evaluation began in China nearly 200 years ago.
- When the United States moved into World War I, the U.S. government used psychological evaluations to assess recruits to aid in appropriate job assignment. These tests set a precedent for the development of psychological testing for the next several decades.
- Following World War II, college administration quickly picked up on the idea of group testing. The College Entrance Examination Board was created to test applicants to colleges across the nation. In 1925, they developed tests that were no longer essay tests that were very open to interpretation, but now were objective tests that were also the first to be scored by machine. These early tests evolved into modern day College Board tests, like the Scholastic Assessment Test, Graduate Record Examination, and the Law School Admissions Test.

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SPECIALTY EVALUATIONS

HOW A PSYCHOLOGIST CAN HELP

All psychologists are trained to administer basic intelligence tests, personality tests, achievement and interest tests. Psychologists can respond to a variety of referral questions through the use of these instruments, clinical interviews, review of background materials, and observational data. Many psychologists include psychological assessments in the array of services that they offer to clients.

Beyond these basic assessments, some psychologists elect to seek advanced training to perform specialized evaluations. These include evaluating parents to make recommendations for custody determinations, evaluating individuals' competence to make decisions for themselves and manage their day-to-day affairs, evaluating individuals' psychological suitability to have bariatric surgery, and forensic evaluations of individuals accused of crimes or awaiting sentencing. These are only examples of the types of evaluations that a psychologist might be called upon to conduct, but each requires a unique set of skills and no one psychologist is likely to acquire the skills for each type of evaluation. In some cases, such as custody evaluations, the national professional association has developed recommended guidelines for the protocol to be followed.

Psychologists who conduct specialized assessments are likely to use tests and instruments that have been especially designed for the referral question and standardized on the special client population, as well as some of the more standard assessment instruments.

Psychologists are uniquely training to add objective test data to clinical interview information and background information. Therefore, the recommendations from psychologists have the added value of including data which has a research basis.

Common Referral Sources

- Family and Geriatric Medicine
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Psychiatry
- Health and Clinical Psychology
- Employment-Based Sources
- Medicolegal Sources
- Academic Institutions

Reasons for Referral

- Memory Impairment
- Dementia Versus Depression
- Adult ADHD
- Learning Disorders
- Stroke
- Epilepsy
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Demyelinating Disorders
- Symptoms and Conditions Interfering with Daily, Occupational, and Academic Functioning

Location

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