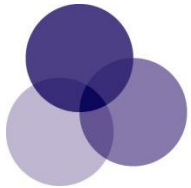


The Actual Work of an Expert Witness

August 12, 2010



NATIONAL CENTER
on Domestic and Sexual Violence
training • consulting • advocacy

Establishing your Credentials



Qualifying Questions

- Q What are your name and city of residence?
- Q How are you employed?
- Q What is your educational background?
- Q What certificates and licenses do you hold?
- Q What academic affiliations have you had?
- Q What experience do you have in the mental health field?
- Q What has been your involvement in the family violence field?



Qualifying Questions

- Q Do you have publications in the field of family violence?
- Q Are you on the editorial board of any scholarly journals?
- Q Have you done research in the field of family violence?
- Q What recognition has there been for your work?



Educating the Jury to Family Violence in General

- Q What are some of the characteristics of a batterer?
- Q Angela Browne authored a book called, **BATTERED WOMEN WHO KILL**. What did Browne find out about the difference in battered women who kill their husbands in comparison to battered women who do not kill their husbands?

Educating the Jury to Family Violence in General

- Q Why would someone get involved in a relationship such as this?
- Q Why don't they leave and why do they stay?
- Q Do men kill women for the same reason as women kill men?
- Q Is Testimony on Battered Women accepted in the scientific community?
- Q Why is your testimony so important?

For Each Particular Case You May Need to Establish...

- ...that you have been qualified before.
- ...that you are being paid, if you are.
- ...that you have examined the defendant, if you have.



- ...that you have worked with the prosecution, as well as the defense.
- ...that you served on grand juries, if you have (include name, date, which court and which judge).

For Each Particular Case You May Need To Establish...



- ...if needed, that you have advocated for a man tried for killing his wife.
- ...if needed and you have, known of a woman killing for avarice or anger.

Forensic Report Writing



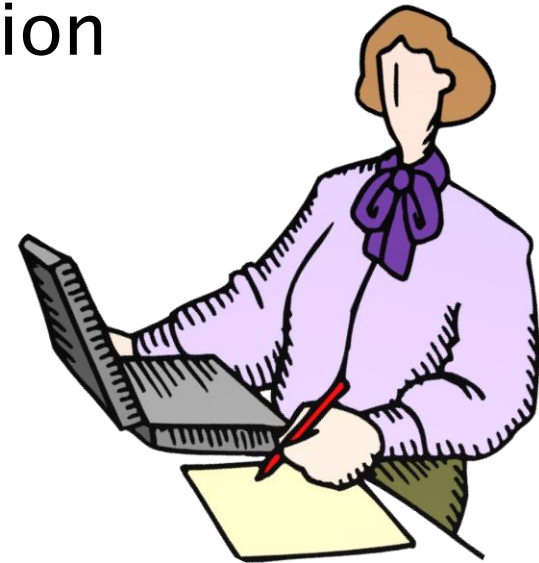
Forensic Report Outline

1. Attorney and fee arrangement
2. Court, charge and trial / hearing date
3. Purpose of consultation
4. Materials reviewed
5. Explanation of terms
6. Date(s)
7. Identifying information
8. Early history



Forensic Report Outline

9. Educational history
10. Vocational history
11. Intimate relationships, including marriages
12. Health history
13. Drug and alcohol information
14. Criminal justice history
15. Counseling history
16. Relationship with him



Forensic Report Outline



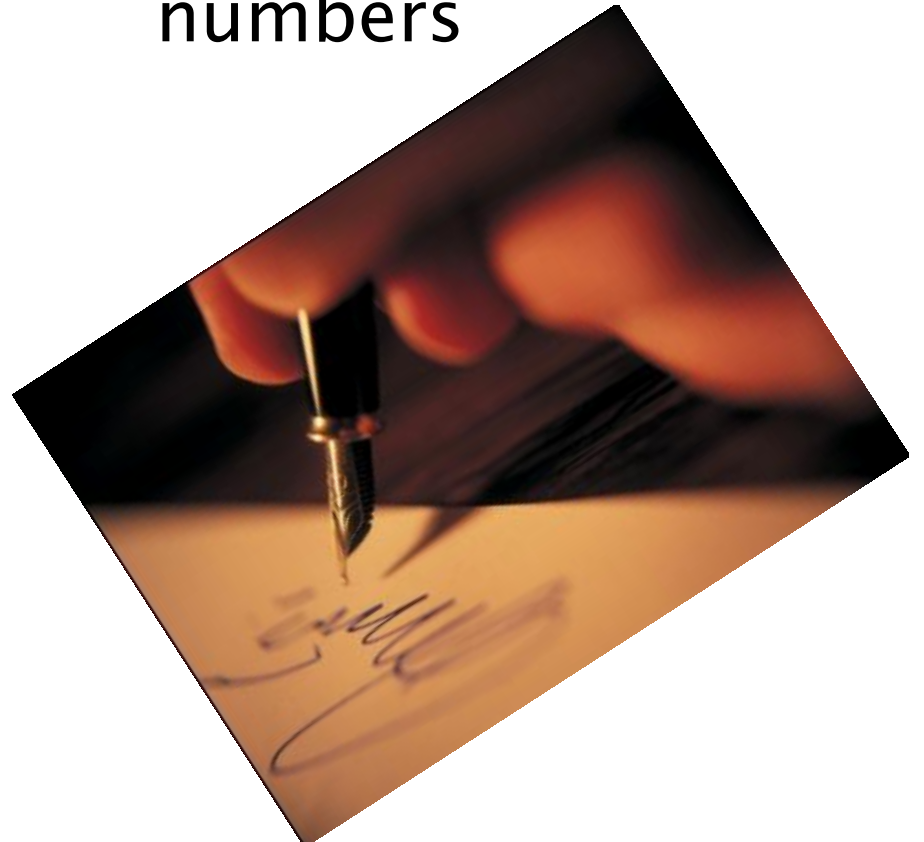
17. His background and history, from what sources
18. History of abuse and help-seeking behavior
19. Incident
20. Current situation
21. Information from other sources
22. Appearance, behavior and demeanor

Forensic Report Outline

23. Formulation and findings

24. Disposition and follow-up, including things to be done

25. Name, signature and license numbers



Mentoring

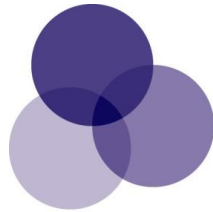


National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women

Working for justice for battered women charged with crimes.

- ❖ Among their services, they provide customized technical assistance to battered women charged with crimes and to members of their defense teams (defense attorneys, advocates, expert witnesses and others).
- ❖ 215-351-0010 and 800-903-0111, ext. 3
- ❖ www.ncdbw.org

Comments?



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