This document is intended to be of assistance to psychologists and psychiatrists who are in the process of fulfilling requirements for appointment as Designated Forensic Professionals in Massachusetts. The reading list consists of two parts: 1) Massachusetts statutes, 2) legal cases and clinical texts/articles.

The first list notes chapters and sections of the Massachusetts General Laws that are especially relevant for the work of forensic mental health examiners in District and Superior Courts. Annotations indicate the general content of each chapter and/or section.

The second list includes: 1) legal cases that are relevant for the content of the DFP written exam (although we have included a few additional ones with which forensic mental health professionals should be familiar), and 2) basic articles, chapters, or books for each of several clinical and forensic content areas that are important for the work of Designated Forensic Professionals in service to Massachusetts’ district and superior courts. In all cases we have chosen references that speak directly to the applied assessment process of the forensic mental health examiner. Thus none of the references focus primarily on theory or on reports of research studies.

The DFP Committee
Forensic Mental Health Services
Massachusetts Department of Mental Health
STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

M.G.L. c. 123

• Definition of “likelihood of serious harm”
• Definition of “strict security” or “strict custody”
• Civil commitment
• Competence to stand trial and criminal responsibility
• Aid in sentencing
• Prisoners in need of treatment
• Substance abuse evaluations

M.G.L. c. 123B

• Definition of “person with intellectual disability”
• Other relevant definitions

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• Definition of “mental illness”
• Designated forensic psychologist
• Designated forensic psychiatrist
• Forensic mental health supervisor
• Qualified physician
• Qualified psychologist

M.G.L. c. 233, s. 20B

• Definitions of “patient” and “psychotherapist”
• Exceptions to privilege

M.G.L. c. 112, s. 129A

• Confidentiality
• Exceptions to confidentiality

M.G.L. c. 112, s. 135

• Disclosure of information by social workers
• Exceptions

M.G.L. c. 190 cc. 142

• Protection of disabled persons
M.G.L. c. 19A. ss. 14, 15, and IS
• Reporting of suspected abuse of elderly people

M.G.L. c. 119. cc. 51A-51G
• Physically or emotionally injured children
• Mandated reporting of suspected child abuse

M.G.L. c. 120
• Department of Youth Services

M.G.L. c. 6 s. 178C-178P.
• Sex Offender Registry Law
CASE LAW AND CLINICAL/FORENSIC TEXTS

Currently there are three major textbooks that provide guidance for a broad range of forensic evaluations:


   OR


In addition, the following books, which also cover the breadth of forensic evaluations, are recommended reading:


   OR


When we cite these three references in the following lists, we refer only to the chapters pertaining to the specific topics in question. In addition, we have identified books and articles that are specific to each of the content areas delineated below.

**Note:** Cases marked by asterisk should be read in their entirety. Although it would be helpful to read the other cases in their as well, a reading of the syllabus will be sufficient for those unable to read the tire case.

**I. COMPETENCE TO STAND TRIAL:**

1. *Jackson v. Indiana, 406 US 715 (1972)* *
2. *Dusky v. United States, 362 US 402 (1960)* *

Readings:


Melton et al. (2007) Chapter 6: Competency to Stand Trial

Grisso, Evaluating Competencies, 2003, Chapter 5


Appelbaum and Gutheil (2006) Chapter 6

II. CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY


Readings:


Otto, R.K.. (2013) Forensic Psychology, Chapter 20 (Goldstein, Morse, Packer)


III. COMMITMENT (CIVIL, NGRI, PRISONERS)


IV. COMPETENCE TO REFUSE TREATMENT

1. Rogers v. Okin, 634 F.2d 650 (1980)*

Readings for both Commitment and Competence to Refuse Treatment

Melton et al., (2007) Chapters 10 and 11


V. CONDUCTING EVALUATIONS

3. DYS v. a Juvenile, 398 Mass. 516 (1986)*

Readings:


Otto, (2003) Forensic Psychology vol. 11, Chapter 21 (Rogers and Bender: Malingering)


Appelbaum and Gutheil (2006). Chapter 1


VI. EXPERT TESTIMONY

1. Frye v. United States, 293 F.1013 (1923)
5. *Jenkins v. United States, 307 F.2d 637 (1962)*

Readings:

Otto (2013) Chapter 4 (Erickson and Ewing)


Rosner (2003). Chapters 4 and 5

Packer (2009) Chapter 7

Zapf and Roesch (2009) Chapter 7

**VII. DUTY TO PROTECT**

1. Tarasoff V. Regents of University of California, 551 P.2d 354 (1976)*
2. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 123 §36B *

**VIII. CONFESSIONS**


*Note:* Although DFPs are not required to perform evaluations of competence to confess, the Committee felt that DFP’s should at least be aware of the issues involved in these cases.

**IX. ETHICS**


Melton et al. (2007) Chapter 4: Constitutional, Common Law, & Ethical Contours of the Evaluation Process:

**X. Violence Risk Assessment**


Otto (2013) Chapter 6 (Hart and Storey – Psychopathy)


Melton et al. (2007) Chapter 9 (Sentencing)

XI. Multicultural Issues

DSM-5 - Cultural Formulation Interview