

# Curriculum Vitae

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Forensic Psychology  
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## EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

- 1997 PhD, Psychology - University of Maine (APA-accredited program), Orono, Maine. Dissertation: *Reciprocity Styles and the Perception of Marital Adjustment and Equity*
- 1984 B.A. (Magna Cum Laude/Phi Beta Kappa), Major: Psychology and Human Services, State University of New York, Buffalo, NY

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSES/CREDENTIALS

- 1996 Alcohol and Drug Counselor, (License number LC1572)
- 1998 Psychologist (License number PS955)
- 1999 Court-Rostered, State of Maine Guardian *ad Litem*
- 2008 Completed certification program for Parenting Coordinator
- 2012 National Register Health Service Psychologist (#53561)

## BOARD MEMBER

State of Maine Opioid Prevention Task Force Work Group, Appointed by Office of the Governor of Maine and Executive Order dated February 2019 (September 2019-May 2020).

Guardian *ad Litem* Review Board, Maine Overseers of the Bar, Appointed Vice-Chair by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court (2015-present).

Maine Psychological Association, President (2014-2016); Chair of Legislative Committee (2008-2014; 2016-present); Member (1986-present).

Penquis Steering Committee for Penobscot County (2009-2014); Governing Board (2012-2014); Finance Committee (2010-2012).

Maine Guardian *ad Litem* Institute Executive Committee (2008-2015).

Rape Response Services, Board Chair (2006-2014).

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Adjunct Graduate Faculty – Clinical Psychology, University of Maine, Orono, Maine (2008-2018).

Adjunct Undergraduate Faculty - Criminal Justice, Husson University, Bangor, Maine (2014-2015). Taught Forensic Psychology, CJ490

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATIONS

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American Psychological Association  
Maine Psychological Association  
American Psychology – Law Society, Division 41  
Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)  
National Organization of Forensic Social Work (NOFSW)

## **FORENSIC SERVICES**

2007–Present

Forensic Evaluator for Maine State Forensic Service:

- Conduct court-ordered evaluations requested by the Court, the State, or Defense Counsel regarding competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility/abnormal condition of the mind and sentencing mitigation
- Trial testimony as an expert witness concerning the evaluation, findings, and conclusions

1998–Present

Private practice with specialty in forensic services:

- Qualified as expert witness in District, Superior, and Probate Courts in Maine as well as Federal District Court for State of Maine
- Evaluations of criminal defendants regarding adjudicative competence, criminal responsibility, and sentencing mitigation
- Risk Assessments for violence recidivism or sexual offending in adolescents and adults
- Risk Assessment for domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- Risk Assessment for substance use
- Eligibility evaluations for Developmental Disability Services, including identification of neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism spectrum disorder
- Parental capacity evaluations in child protective and family matters
- Child maltreatment risk assessments
- Analysis of child abuse forensic interviews for defense attorneys
- Evaluations regarding family dynamics, such as alignment and alienation
- Evaluations in civil matters regarding impact of trauma and other events on functioning/employability
- Guardianship Evaluations/Completion of PP-505 Form
- Trial testimony as an expert witness
- Consulting expert during litigation

1999–Present

Child custody related practice in family courts:

- Rostered Guardian ad Litem, court-appointed to represent the best interests of children in divorce or parental rights and responsibility cases
- Court, attorney, and parent consultation concerning child development, access schedules, relocation, family dynamics and interventions
- Consultation and review of parent or child psychological evaluations in custody litigation, child abuse, and neglect cases
- Co-parenting coaching and mediation services

# Curriculum Vitae

2013–2018

Evaluator for Court Ordered Diagnostic Evaluation Project (CODE). Conducted forensic child maltreatment evaluations and testified in child protective matters.

2003–2012

Evaluator and peer reviewer (2005-2009) for Child Abuse and Neglect Evaluators Project (CANEP). Conducted forensic child maltreatment evaluations and testified in child protective matters.

2006–2012

Certified as a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) to conduct Department of Transportation (DOT) requested evaluations on individuals who have violated DOT's drug and alcohol regulations.

2003–2008

Evaluator for New Horizons for Young Women, a residential treatment program for young women, for purposes of treatment and intervention recommendations.

## **CLINICAL/CONSULTING EXPERIENCES**

2010–Present

National Health Consultant for Job Corps, a program administered by the Department of Labor through the National Office of Job Corps.

- Provide consultation and trainings on substance abuse policy implementation and compliance to Job Corps' Wellness Programs at centers for the Boston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco regions through a subcontract with Humanitas, Inc. in Silver Spring, MD.
- Conduct Program Compliance Assessments through on-site visits and meetings with management, personnel, and students. These assessments are similar to accreditation reviews that occur at health facilities and involve two or three days on-site visits to the centers.
- Draft and review policies to assist and support Job Corps Wellness staff in implementing programming which facilitates prevention, education, and identification of substance abuse problems, relapse prevention, and helping students overcome barriers to employability.
- Provide national trainings and technical assistance services to TEAP specialists through telephonic meetings.
- Assist Trainee Employee Assistance Program (TEAP) specialists to provide a framework and strategies for centers to build effective programs to support the needs of the students.
- Review and assist centers with licensure requirements for TEAP specialists in accordance with the laws of that state.

2003–2019

Provided employee assistance program services (EAP) to Families and Children Together, Bangor, ME.

2017-2018

# Curriculum Vitae

Course writer for Relias Learning LLC. Wrote continuing education course entitled: Ethical Considerations in Substance Use Treatment for Youth.

2002–2015

Co-presenter for the For Kids' Sake' program which provides co-parenting education to parents involved in parental rights and responsibilities litigation in Northern and Coastal ME.

2009–2013

Consulting Psychologist to Behavioral Health Center at Mount Desert Island Hospital, Bar Harbor, ME.

1998-2006

Provided individual and couples therapy in my private practice, Bangor, ME.

1997–2001

Psychologist and Dual Diagnosis Program Coordinator at Northeast Occupational Exchange, a community mental health agency, Bangor, ME

1994–1995

Intern, Veteran's Administration Medical and Regional Office, Togus, ME.

1989–1994

Alcohol and Other Drugs of Abuse (AODA) Specialist, Penobscot Job Corps, Bangor, ME.

1987–1991

Behavioral Medicine Consultant, Family Practice Residency, Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, ME.

1988–1990

Case Manager and Consultant, Homestead Project, Inc., Ellsworth, ME.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Prescott, D. & Tennes, D. (2019). Bias is a reciprocal relationship: Forensic mental health professionals and lawyers in the family court bottle. *J. Am. Acad. Matrimonial Law*, 31, 427-461.

Prescott, D., & Tennes, D. (2017). The Lawyer as Guardian ad Litem: Should Status Make Expert Opinions All-in and Trump Gatekeeping Functions by Family Courts. *J. Am. Acad. Matrimonial Law.*, 30, 379.

## **SELECT PANELS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (LAST TEN YEARS)**

**Psychological Evaluations and the Forensic Social Worker: The Ethics of Relevance, Reliability, and Interdisciplinary Communication** (2019), National Organization of Forensic Social Work Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

**Forensic Psychological Evaluations, Risk Assessments, and Expert Testimony** (2021), Two day conference sponsored by Raven Consulting and Community Services.

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**Child Development and Chronic Conflict Families** (2019), Guardian ad Litem Core Training sponsored by the Maine State Bar Association and the Administrative Office of the Courts, Augusta, ME.

**Mental Illness, the DSM 5 and Being a Guardian ad Litem** (2019), Guardian ad Litem Core Training sponsored by the Maine State Bar Association and the Administrative Office of the Courts, Augusta, ME.

**Gender and Forensic Experts: Does it Influence Selection and Outcomes?** (2018), National Organization of Forensic Social Work, New Orleans, LA.

**Psychological Evaluations: What a Family Law Attorney Needs to Know** (2018), Family Law Modules Continuing Education Program sponsored by the York Bar Association, Saco, ME.

**Child Development and Chronic Conflict Families: What You Need to Know as Guardian ad Litem** (2017), Guardian ad Litem Core Training sponsored by the Maine State Bar Association and the Administrative Office of the Courts, Augusta, ME.

**Cognitive Bias and Chronic Conflict Families: What You Need to Know as Guardian ad Litem** (2017), Guardian ad Litem Core Training sponsored by the Maine State Bar Association and the Administrative Office of the Courts, Augusta, ME.

**The AMML Custody Evaluation Standards: Scientific Methodology or Just Helpful Rational for Family Courts?** (2017), sponsored by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Boston MA.

**Chronic Conflict Families: Dynamics and Intervention Strategies** (2017), A series of conferences for mental health professionals presented in Saco and Bangor, ME.

**Child Protection and Custody Conflict: Should Forensic Social Workers or the Courts be the “Gatekeepers” of the Reliable and Ethical Use of Social Science?** (2017), National Organization of Forensic Social Work, Boston, MA.

**School Social Work: Values, Ethics and Practice** (2017), Windham and Raymond School District Training, Portland, ME.

**School Social Work: Values, Ethics and Practice** (2016), Westbrook School District Training, Westbrook, ME.

**The Justice System’s Approach to Addiction and Treatment** (2016), Maine Judicial College sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts, Bethel, ME.

**Child Development Research for GALs** (2016), Guardian ad Litem Core Training sponsored by the Maine State Bar Association, Augusta, ME.

**Evaluations and Testing in Child Custody: Wozzles or Science-by-Privilege** (2016), American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Boston Chapter meeting, Boston, MA.

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**Child Development and Trauma: Interview and Safety First** (2016), New World of Guardians ad Litem for Lawyers and Courts (and GALs) sponsored by the York Bar Association and Maine State Bar Association, Saco, ME.

**From the Nuremberg Code to the APA's Hoffman Report: Forensic Experts and "Do No Harm"** (2015), at the American Psychology and Law Society 2015 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Child Development as Applies to Guardians ad Litem** (2015), Guardian ad Litem Core Training sponsored by the Maine State Bar Association and the Administrative Office of the Courts, Bangor, ME.

**Parental Alienation and Other Relationship Dynamics: An Evidence Based Approach** (2015), at the Family Law Institute sponsored by the Maine State Bar Association, Augusta, ME.

**Guardian ad Litem as Expert and Investigator: New Roles and New Rules** (2015), sponsored by Maine Guardian ad Litem Institute, Freeport, ME.

**Guardian ad Litem's: A Survey of New Challenges and Old Duties** (2014), a series of four presentations sponsored by Maine Guardian ad Litem Institute presented in Rockland, Houlton, Waterville and Lewiston, ME.

**Improved Identification of Risk Factors Associated with Child Maltreatment** (2014), at the Maine Child Welfare Conference, Orono, ME.

**Trauma Exposure Response: Management and Strategies** (2014), at Families and Children Together (FACT), Bangor, ME.

**It's Complicated: Co-Occurring Disorders in Parents and how to Support Reunification** (2014), at the Court Improvement Grant Statewide Training sponsored by Maine Administrative Office of the Courts, Portland, ME

**Reunification is the Goal: Now What?** (2014), at the Court Improvement Grant Statewide Training sponsored by Maine Administrative Office of the Courts, Portland, ME.

**Risk Factors Associated with Child Maltreatment and Issues of Adult Mental Health** (2014,) at the Court Improvement Grant Statewide Training sponsored by Administrative Office of the Courts, Portland, ME.

**It's All about Motivation: Getting Clients to do What Needs to be Done** (2013), sponsored by the Administrative Offices of the Courts Annual Court Improvement Grant Conference, Portland, ME.

## Curriculum Vitae

**Risk Factors Associated with Child Maltreatment and Issues of Adult Mental Health** (2013), at the CASA Guardian ad Litem training sponsored by Administrative Office of the Courts, Augusta, ME.

**Collaborative Law and Divorce: A More Humane Process for Families** (2013), at the Tuesday Forum for Women, Bangor, ME.

**It Starts with You: Dealing with Difficult People and Situations** (2013), at the annual Maine Clerks of the Courts conference, Freeport, ME.

**The Changing Terrain: Successfully Navigating the Divorce/Separation Process with Clients** (2013), at Maine Counselor's Association Annual Meeting, Rockland, ME.

**Risk Factors Associated with Child Maltreatment and Issues of Adult Mental Health** (2013), at the CASA Guardian ad Litem training sponsored by Administrative Office of the Courts, Augusta, ME.

**Traumatic Exposure Response: Your ABC's** (2013), at the Administrative Office of the Courts for Judicial Personnel, Augusta, ME.

**Risk Factors Associated with Child Maltreatment and Issues of Adult Mental Health** (2012), at the CASA Guardian ad Litem training sponsored by Administrative Office of the Courts, Augusta, ME.

**Working with a Psychologist in PTSD and "Soft Tissue" Cases** (2012), at the Maine State Bar Association's Summer Meeting, Bar Harbor, ME.

**Parental Alienation: What's Normal, What's Not, and How to Intervene** (2012), at the For Kids Sake Conference, Bangor, ME.

**Parental Alienation: How to Intervene** (2012), at the Maine State Bar Association's Conference for Guardians ad Litem, Freeport, ME.

**Risk Factors Associated with Child Maltreatment** (2011), at the Guardian ad Litem training sponsored by Family Division and the Court Services Advisory Committee of District Courts in Augusta, ME.

**The New Designer Drugs** (2011), at the National Equal Opportunity Training Symposium, Washington DC.

**Effective Representation of Clients with Mental Illness** (2011), at the Statewide conference for Defense Attorneys sponsored by the Maine Administrative Office of the Courts, Augusta, ME.

**Not Your Mother's Drugs: Synthetic Cannabinoids** (2010), at the National Health and Wellness Conference for Job Corps, Orlando, Florida.

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**Vicarious Trauma of Judicial Personnel** (2010), Risk and Reunification State-Wide Conference for Judicial Personnel sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts, Augusta, ME.

**Impact of Mental Illness on Families** (2010), at the Risk and Reunification State-Wide Conference for Judicial Personnel sponsored by the Judicial Branch, Augusta, ME.

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<sup>i</sup> Updated February 2021