

# Maine State Forensic Service Workshop

## Forensic Report Writing

Richard L. DeMier, Ph.D., ABPP

May 11, 2018                      9 AM - 4 PM  
Riverview Psychiatric Center Sebago Room  
Augusta, Maine

Writing crisp, helpful reports for courts requires psychologists to understand psycholegal referral questions, courts' expectations, and their unique role in the process. Research on report writing is reviewed, and practical guidance is extracted from themes in the existing literature. Guiding principles for the organization and structure of a forensic report are reviewed. Elements of good reports are highlighted, with a focus on general principles that can be applied to a variety of types of forensic reports. Emphasis is placed on writing and testifying in order to improve understanding by the target audience. Workshop participants will consider a variety of issues, such as differentiating between observation and inference, the role of diagnosis, and matters of personal and professional style.

### Persons attending this workshop will be able to:

- Articulate three purposes of a well-written forensic report
- Describe how their approach to writing about issues of diversity may affect the way their work is received by the reader of the forensic report
- List reasons to include alternative explanations in their forensic reports
- Articulate a model for including psychological testing in a forensic report
- Differentiate between fact, inference, and opinion
- List definitions for psychological constructs in terms that are understandable to a lay audience
- Identify factors relevant to effective testimony

**Richard L. DeMier, Ph.D., ABPP**, is a clinical psychologist who specializes in forensic assessment. In 1994, he earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. He became board certified in forensic psychology in 2001. For 20 years he practiced clinical and forensic psychology at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, a major medical referral center within the Federal Bureau of Prisons. In addition to his clinical duties, he spent 11 years as Director of Clinical Training for the facility's APA-accredited predoctoral internship. Since 2008, he has served as an examiner for the American Board of Forensic Psychology. In that role, he reviews practice samples and serves as an oral examiner for candidates for board certification. He is co-author, with Drs. Randy Otto and Marcus Boccaccini, of *Forensic Reports and Testimony: A Guide to Effective Communication for Psychologists and Psychiatrists*.

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**Date:** Friday, May 11, 2018

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm (*Registration @ 8:30 a.m.*)

**Cost:** \$125 (We will provide coffee in the morning. Lunch is on your own – bring one or go out)

**Place:** Riverview Psychiatric Center/ 250 Arsenal Street/ Augusta ME

**CEU's:**            **6.0** hours for psychologists (CEU category I by Board of Examiners of Psychologists of the State of Maine).  
                         **6.0** hours for physicians (CME approval under the auspices of Riverview Psychiatric Center' Continuing Education Program)  
                         **5.5** hours for attorneys will be applied for

**CEU's include 1 Hour of Ethics**

Mail this portion (with your check for \$125) to the *State Forensic Service*



**Registration Form** (one form per individual registrant, please)

**Forensic Report Writing**  
May 11, 2018

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**Print** Name and Degree

e-mail

**Make checks payable to** (please ID registrants on check for multiple registrants): Treasurer, State of Maine

**Mail to:** State Forensic Service – 11 SHS – Augusta, ME 04333-0011

FMI – Call 624-4648