

NEW MEXICO JUDICIAL BRANCH

COURT PSYCHOLOGIST

(Classified)

TARGET SALARY: \$75,893-\$151,786 annually, or \$36.487-\$72.974 hourly depending upon experience (pay range LL/MM)

LOCATION: Varies, statewide locations

FLSA STATUS: Exempt

JOB CODE: 1120JB

BENEFITS: Competitive benefits package offered

THE NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY

The Mission of the New Mexico Judiciary is to protect the rights and liberties of the people of New Mexico guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico and the United States; to resolve legal disputes fairly, and to ensure access to justice for all.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES

Acting under general direction and in accordance with American Psychological Association (APA) Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings, the APA Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists and the State of New Mexico Board of Psychology Code of Conduct, independently conduct court-ordered evaluations.

EXAMPLES OF JOB DUTIES

- **The Court Psychologist** is responsible for serving as a consultant and resource for interpreting and integrating psychological test results for court staff and Court Clinicians.
- Conducts in-depth evaluations and diagnostic interviews for child custody, and/or competency to stand trial, and/or other criminal and civil case-related evaluations.
- Assesses the developmental and psychological needs of children.
- Researches literature as relates to cases and creates detailed reports including treatment recommendations in the form of a court order.
- Conducts forensic evaluations such as competency to stand trial, and/or other evaluations such as dangerousness, criminal responsibility, suicidality, mental status, and competency to testify as a witness.
- Testifies as an expert witness in the district and metropolitan court in criminal and civil cases both under examination and cross-examination.
- Conducts risk and amenability to treatment assessments and psychological evaluations to assess eligibility for Court Mental Health Programs.
- Researches legal standards to answer referral questions raised by the court.
- Determines procedures to be used in cases including the use of psychological tests.
- Observes the child(ren) interacting with each parent and significant others.
- Assesses the lethality of domestic violence and child abuse (physical and sexual).
- Assesses suicidality and dangerousness as well as a potential risk of aggression between parties and/or toward the child(ren).
- Makes recommendations regarding parenting plans and treatment recommendations in the form of court orders.

- Writes comprehensive forensic reports to address court-ordered referral questions and establish diagnoses to make treatment recommendations.
- Conducts court-ordered child custody evaluations consistent with APA Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings.
- Gathers information regarding family dynamics, social structure, psychopathology, substance abuse, collateral data, criminal records, and other relevant information.
- Uses advanced degree and skills to administer and interpret objective, projective, competency, intellectual functioning, and neuropsychological tests.
- Educates parents, judicial officers, and the community on child development and the impact of ongoing conflict.
- Provides training to student interns.
- Trains staff in administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological tests.
- Provides administrative direction, attends meetings, and works in an advisory and management capacity in the absence of the Clinical Director.
- Other duties as assigned.

COMPETENCIES/QUALIFICATIONS

The successful applicant should demonstrate knowledge in procedural criteria for conducting child custody and/or, competency and other forensic evaluations; psychological testing instruments including the interpretation and integration of results on projective, objective, competency, intellectual functioning, memory and neuropsychology tests; structured diagnostic interviews; current New Mexico Board of Psychologist Examiners Code of Conduct; APA Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings and Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists; child development; psychopathology; family systems theory and therapy; substance abuse; domestic violence, child abuse; cultural diversity; statewide mental health agencies; treatment planning; forensic report writing; family court guidelines; legal knowledge of mental health evaluations; research regarding syndromes and propensity for behaviors; advanced mediation, settlement, negotiation techniques; the DSM; rules of civil procedure, local court rules, courtroom procedures and rules of evidence.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education: A Ph.D. from an accredited college or university in Psychology, Counseling, or other mental-health related field; forty (40) hours of training in Forensic Psychology (or to be completed within six months from the date of hire); forty (40) hours of mediation training, and twenty (20) hours in advanced mediation training in the area of family/child custody disputes (or to be completed within the first year from date of hire).

Education Substitution: None.

Experience: Five (5) years of experience working with families and children in a therapeutic setting; dealing with crisis intervention and assessing the lethality of domestic violence and child abuse (physical and sexual); and/or using psychological assessments, projective and objective tests, and other forensic assessment instruments; of which three (3) years must include court-ordered forensic evaluations.

Experience Substitution: None.

Licensure: Must possess and maintain a license to practice in the State of New Mexico as a Psychologist. **Newly licensed Psychologists and experienced licensed Psychologists are encouraged to apply.**

WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The following functions are representative, but not all-inclusive of the work environment and physical demands an employee may expect to encounter in performing tasks assigned to this job. Work is performed in an office or court setting. A valid driver's license and travel may be required. The assigned work schedule may include nights, weekends, holidays, and overtime. The employee must regularly interact positively with co-workers, clients, the public, judges, and justices.

** This job description is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions performed*

BENEFITS

- Medical/Dental/Vision/Rx, Short, and Long Term Disability Insurance Programs, employee assistance program (EAP) [<http://www.mybenefitsnm.com/>]
- State paid life insurance, supplemental and dependent life insurance
- Optional flexible spending accounts for medical, day-care, and travel expenses
- Paid time off, up to eight (8) weeks
- Paid time off and retirement buyback
- Eleven (11) paid holidays
- Up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave
- Deferred Compensation [457\(b\) plan](#)
- Lifetime Defined Benefits Retirement Plan [<http://www.nmpera.org/>]
- Flexible work schedules and alternative work locations*
- Free health care, Rx, and lab work at the facility ([Stay Well Health Center](#)) in Santa Fe, NM
- Bilingual compensation*
- Training and career development opportunities
- Higher education [opportunities](#), educational leave, and tuition reimbursement
- May qualify for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program ([PSLF](#))
- May receive overtime holiday or shift differential pay*
- May receive physical fitness leave*
- What are your benefits worth? Click [here](#) to find out

These benefits vary by job classification or need

START YOUR CAREER

Experience the difference, work for the Judiciary! Apply [here](#)!

History of Job Description: Dev: 07/01/03, Rev: 12/14/09, 05/14/10, 10/28/16, 02/06/20, Benefits updated:
02/26/21, Audit: 12/31/22, Rev Pay Ranges: 07/08/23

The state of New Mexico is an equal opportunity employer. Hiring is done without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability. The state provides reasonable accommodations to the known disabilities of individuals in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act. For accommodation information or if you need special accommodations to complete the application process, please contact the Administrative Office of the Courts Human Resources Division at 505/470-7205. Applications and resumes including a supplemental application must be submitted to apply. Applications may be found online at nmcourts.gov.