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CLINICAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST

5 Questions Every Attorney Should Ask a Forensic Psychologist

1. Do you use a multi-method approach?

A single session interview is not enough. A proper forensic evaluation includes record review, clinical interviews, psychological testing, and collateral contacts. Ask to see their methodology description.

2. How do you differentiate between personality pathology and trauma?

Many symptoms overlap (e.g., emotional dysregulation, flashbacks). The expert should explain how they use dimensional models (AMPD, PDM-2) to distinguish trauma from personality structure.

3. Can you defend your opinion under cross-examination?

An opinion based on method and evidence, not loyalty, will hold up. Ask for an example of a case where the expert changed their opinion after reviewing new data – a good expert is intellectually honest.

4. What is your experience with high-conflict family systems?

Personality structure, not just diagnosis, drives alienation and escalation. Ask for specific examples (anonymised) of custody cases where they assessed parental capacity.

5. Do you offer a preliminary consultation?

Many experts will discuss a case briefly at no charge to determine fit. This saves time and money.

For a confidential forensic consultation, contact Dr. Justin Jones:

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