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Standard Guide for Ethical Requirements for Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (PDD) Examiners¹

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1. Scope

1.1 The purpose of this guide is to establish ethical requirements for all individuals engaged in forensic psychophysiological detection of deception (PDD).

1.2 All individuals engaged in the practice of conducting PDD examinations shall adhere to this guide.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

E2035 Terminology Relating to Forensic Psychophysiology

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms see Terminology E2035.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to circumvent or attempt to circumvent, violate, or attempt to violate any of the following.

4.1.1 (Standard #), and

4.1.2 Any legislative act which regulates or governs the use of PDD.

4.2 When restricted, PDD examiners employed in public law enforcement shall not engage in private PDD testing for criminal defense attorneys or post-conviction/clinical sex offender treatment providers. The PDD examiners who conduct examinations in both a law enforcement and private capacity shall strive to avoid situations in which a conflict of interest may exist.

4.3 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to release any unauthorized information except when required.

4.4 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner or their employee or associate, with the PDD examiner's knowledge, to engage in any type of advertising which would be considered false, deceptive, or misleading.

4.5 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to falsify or omit pertinent detail from any written report or record.

4.6 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to cause to alter any tracing(s) during a PDD examination to influence the outcome of that examination.

4.7 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to administer a PDD examination if it is determined that the examinee is not physically or mentally suitable for the examination.

4.8 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to solicit or accept fees, gratuities, or gifts which are intended to influence the examiner's opinion.

4.8.1 Fees shall not be contingent on the results of the examination.

4.9 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to form an opinion influenced by anything other than the PDD examination.

4.9.1 No other credibility assessment method shall be included in the PDD report.

4.10 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to include in any examination questions that are intended to inquire into or develop information on activities, affiliations, or beliefs in religion, politics, or race, except where relevant.

4.11 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner who is also a mental health counselor, marriage counselor, and/or sex offender treatment provider to conduct a PDD examination on any person who they are also actively counseling.

4.12 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to portray themselves as having a particular educational degree unless it was received from an institution approved by a recognized by a regional or governmental approving or accrediting entity to grant this degree.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The development of a canon of ethics signifies the maturity in a specialized field of endeavor, that the practitioners recognize their collective responsibility to the individual and to the public welfare. The ethical standards set forth in this guide hold all PDD examiners to a code of practice that elevates the profession above personal interests, for the benefit of justice and society. Because licensing requirements of PDD

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.