

A One Day Seminar

**THERAPISTS IN COURT:
PRACTICAL RISK MANAGEMENT**
(6 Continuing Education Credits)

With

Eric G. Mart, Ph.D., ABPP

Saturday, May 15, 2004
9:00am to 5:00pm
(Registration is at 8:30am)

**Alaska Pacific University campus
Atwood Center Art Room**

Sponsored by:
Alaska Psychological Association
Alaska Pacific University

The Alaska Psychological Association maintains responsibility for this program

Workshop Summary

In our increasingly litigious society, high divorce rates, custody disputes, child abuse reports, personal injury suites and disability claims all have the potential to draw the psychotherapist into involvement with the courts. Many therapists are unfamiliar with the terrain of the legal system. Without proper strategies for responding to demands for court-related assistance such as requests for opinions, records and testimony, such involvement puts them at risk for inadvertent violations of practice standards, as well as complaints to regulatory boards by dissatisfied litigants.

This workshop is designed to help psychotherapists from various mental health guilds (psychologists, social workers, counselors and marriage and family therapist) respond effectively to situations in which their therapeutic roles bring them into contact with the legal system. Participants will be provided with concrete, practical guidelines for coping with a variety of situations that will almost inevitably arise in the course of psychotherapeutic practices.

Workshop Objectives

- Cope more effectively with unique professional demands imposed on therapists in litigated manners
- Avoid common errors and lapses in clinical practice that cause trouble
- Limit exposure to malpractice claims and practice complaints
- Set appropriate boundaries and develop therapeutic contracts with patient litigants
- Respond to allegations of practice misconduct and mental health regulatory agency investigations

Who should attend?

- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Licensed Professional Counselors
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Psychotherapists
- Psychiatric Nurses
- Psychiatrists
- Pastoral Counselors
- All other mental health professionals

Workshop Outline

8:30 Registration

9:00 Legal/Clinical Vignettes

- The child therapist and the custody dispute
- The marriage counselor and the domestic violence/divorce case
- The trauma therapist and the sexual harassment person injury suit

Therapist vs. Evaluator: Role Differences

- Advocacy vs. Impartiality
- Privilege: Who owns it?
- Self report vs. Corroboration and Rapport vs. Skepticism
- The Treating Expert: A New Model

The APA Ethical Standards and Code of Conduct 2003 Revision

- New Standards on the release of raw data
- Court related standards

10:15 Break

10:30 Coping (Calmly and Ethically) With Common Court-Related Stressors

- Requests for records by lawyers
- Requests for written opinions
- Subpoenas: The Sheriff is in the waiting room

Using Informed Consent to Address Litigation Related Issues in Advance

- Issues with minors
- Issues with couples
- Limits of confidentiality

Ethical Issues Related to Computer Technology

- The use and misuse of computerized testing
- A canned and interpretive reports and reports writers: Pros and Cons
- Computer security and protecting data

Ethical Implications of On-line Therapy

- Therapist to therapist communication on line and on lists

12:00 Lunch – on your own

1:00 Practicing Defensively with Difficult Clients

- A hard look at your areas of competence
- The importance of and different approaches to initial evaluation and diagnosis
- Screening in and screening out
- Documentation

Dealing with Board Complaints

2:15 Break

2:30 Depositions and Testimony: A How-To Guide

- How to prepare
- Personal presentation: How to dress and act
- Coping with stupid lawyer tricks
- Your day in court

4:30 Q and A Session

About the Speaker

Eric G. Mart, Ph.D., ABPP (www.psychology-law.com), is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Manchester, New Hampshire. Dr. Mart specializes in forensic psychology and has provided expert services in course cases throughout the United States and Canada. His areas of expertise include criminal and civil competencies, sexual offenders and abuse victims, and child custody assessment, as well as mental health ethics and professional misconduct. Dr. Mart has appeared in *20/20*, *Court TV*, *BBC Radio*, and *National Public Radio*. He is the author of *Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy Reconsidered* and is an internationally known expert on the subject.

Continuing Education Units

THERAPISTS IN COURT: PRACTICAL RISK MANAGEMENT is sponsored by the Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA). AK-PA is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education programs for psychologists. AK-PA maintains responsibility for the program.

Six (6) continuing education credits will be awarded to participants who attend the entire full-day presentation as offered. Partial credit cannot be given.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation requests, **IN WRITING**, must be postmarked seven (7) days prior to the start of this event in order to receive a refund. All cancellations are subject to a \$25 processing fee. Authorized refunds will be mailed following the completion of the seminar. AK-PA regrets that no refunds can be issued for ANY reason after the deadline

**THERAPISTS IN COURT:
PRACTICAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

Fees and Registration Form

Please print out this form, fill it in and mail in with your payment to:

**AK-PA
P.O. Box 241292
Anchorage, AK 99524-1292**

Fees:	Before 4/30	After 4/30
AK-PA Members	100	110
Non-AKPA Members	120	130
Students (<u>No CE credit</u>)	20	20

Registration Information:

Name: _____

Mailing Address (including city, state, and zip code): _____

Contact Phone & Email: _____

AK-PA Member Y N

Student Y N

Total Fees: _____

Payment:

Check (made out to AK-PA)

Visa

Mastercard

Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____