

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 1 — 2016

ALICE IN RECIDIVISM LAND: THE QUEENS LOGIC AND CHILD PROTECTION WORKERS' ASSESSMENT OF SEXUAL DANGEROUSNESS

**Ian R. Coyle, Ph.D., Robert L. Halon, Ph.D., Terence W. Campbell, Ph.D.
Donald M. Thomson, Jessica Woskett**

This article is based on a case that highlights the dearth of cogent and pertinent risk assessment information in the reports and testimonies of many involved in assessing risks to children in real life problematic circumstances. In the case, the decision to exclude an intrafamilial sexual offender from the family home was made in large measure on the basis that the offender's wife accepted the offender's "denial of guilt" to accusations previously made against him. Keeping families apart should not be entertained without reliable and valid evidence pointing to that decision. However, as will be seen, the evidence often relied upon by child protection workers, albeit in good faith, is neither. The assessment processes described in the case point directly to what appears to be a wider lack of knowledge specific to assessment of recidivism, to misrepresentation of risk assessment information, and to overarching epistemological issues that appear to be widely ignored and/or misunderstood within the overall field of risk assessment and threat management. The purpose of this article is to describe how the information used to decide upon exclusion in the case cannot be considered probative and to iterate the methodological processes that must be considered in such cases if miscarriages of justice are to be avoided.

CROWDSOURCING AS A FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH TOOL

Melissa A. Baker, M.A., Paul Fox, Ph.D., Twila Wingrove, J.D., Ph.D.

Crowdsourcing is a research tool of particular interest to behavioral forensic psychologists. Behavioral forensic psychology is usually thought of as an applied science with a focus on the behavior of people interacting with components of the legal system. For forensic psychologists, one important advantage of crowdsourcing is that crowdsourced samples might be more representative of people interacting with the legal system than typical college student samples. We discuss this and other advantages and disadvantages of crowdsourced samples in the context of demographic data collected from 1,874 crowdsourced participants involved in a study of eyewitness memory. Our analyses of the demographic data from this study showed that crowdsourced samples are more

heterogeneous than college samples along a variety of dimensions but that neither sampling procedure produces samples representative of the general American population.

COMMENTARY: DEALING WITH ROAD RAGE

Ralph Slovenko, J.D., Ph.D.