

**SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR (SVP)
INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR FOR THE SEX OFFENDER COMMITMENT PROGRAM (SOCP)
Department of State Hospitals (DSH)**

A. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) is seeking mental health professionals to provide specialty forensic evaluation services pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6600 et seq., including, but not limited to:

- a. Forensic psychological evaluations and evaluation reports,
- b. Court preparation and testimony regarding evaluations,
- c. Consultation related to evaluation services,
- d. Peer reviews of evaluation services as assigned, and
- e. Training Instructor services upon request.

These services must be performed at a variety of locations throughout the state, to include, but not be limited to state prison facilities, state hospitals, county jails and county courts.

B. BACKGROUND

The California Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Act, contained in Welfare and Institutions Code Section (WIC) 6600 et seq., was enacted in October 1995 and became effective January 1, 1996. It established a new category of civil commitment for individuals found, upon release from prison, to be sexually violent predators. Since its implementation in 1995, the program has undergone considerable change and growth, most significantly in late 2006 with the passage of Jessica's Law and Senate Bill 1128, which increased the number of qualifying crimes from nine (9) to thirty-five (35) as well as lowering the requisite number of victims from two to one.

The Sex Offender Commitment Program (SOCP) administers the provisions of the SVP Act. SOCP contracts with experts in the field of forensic psychology/psychiatry to evaluate, perform risk assessments and testify in court regarding their evaluation decisions. The evaluations are time sensitive and must be completed prior to the inmate's release or court date. Failure to perform these services accurately and timely could result in the release of a potential sexually violent predator and thereby compromise public safety.

C. TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Conducts psychological interviews of sex offenders and/or sexually violent predators, forensic evaluations, final diagnoses, applies risk assessment measures of correctional facility inmates, state hospital patients, and other high risk sex offenders or sexually violent predators located in other facilities. Adheres to Forensic Services Division (FSD) policies, standards, and guidelines. Prepares and presents expert testimony in SVP hearing procedures.

D. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. Resident of California, OR non-resident agrees to accept that the State of California travel reimbursement rates will begin at the State line nearest their home.
2. Possession of a valid license to practice psychology issued by the California Board of Psychology, OR possession of a valid California medical or osteopathic license AND completion of psychiatric residency approved by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology to practice psychiatry.
3. At least five years experience in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders.
4. **NOT** to be a State Government or a Forensic Conditional Release Program employee.
5. At least 20 hours of forensic expert witness testimony in high risk offender cases or Sexually Violator Predator cases; or 10 hours court appearances where forensic expert testimony was provided. (Training administered by the Department of State Hospitals on expert eye witness testimony may be used to satisfy up to 10 hours of the required 20 hours as specified.)
6. In the last two years, has been trained on sex offender risk assessment tools appropriate for assessing risk for sexual recidivism. Demonstrated training on the STATIC 99R is specifically required and training on at least one dynamic assessment tool is also required. This may include, but is not limited to the STABLE 2007, SRA:FV, or VRS-SO.
7. Three references for which similar services have been provided within the last five years.
8. If a California corporation, provide a copy of the corporation documents on file with the California Secretary of State. Corporations located outside California must submit an affidavit to show the corporation is in good standing in that state, province, or country.
9. If a psychiatrist, provide a copy of a valid physician's license issued by the Medical Board of California.
10. If a medical or psychological corporation, provide a copy of the Fictitious Name Permit on file with the California Department of Consumer Affairs under the name of the medical or psychological corporation used.

The new panel evaluators must acknowledge that their first five reports will be subject to 100% peer review and corrective feedback. All ongoing work will be subject to random peer review.

Additionally, the new panel evaluators are responsible for their own training and proficiency in SVP evaluation.

E. BUDGET DETAIL

Service	Rate
Psychological Evaluations ¹	\$ 2,750.00 (Per case)
Update Evaluations ² / Recommitment Update Evaluations ³	\$ 3,250.00 (Per case)
Difference of Opinion Update Evaluations ⁴	\$ 4,500.00 (Per case)
Replacement Psychological Evaluations ⁵	\$ 4,500.00 (Per case)
Recommitment Psychological Evaluations ⁶	\$ 4,500.00 (Per case)
Report Addendums – Upon request from the DSH only	\$ 500.00 (Per case)
Suspended Cases ⁷	\$ 200.00 / \$ 950.00 (Per case)*
C-File or Medical File Review (i.e., files located at jail) (Prior approval required)	\$ 200.00 (Per case)
Court prep time (maximum of 15 hours without prior approval). Prior approval is required beyond 15 hours up to a maximum of 20 hours total.	\$ 150.00 (Per hour) Maximum of \$3,000 Per Case
Testimony time per subpoena (subpoena document must be provided)	\$ 200.00 (Per hour)
Court wait time per subpoena	\$ 100.00 (Per hour)
Depositions	\$ 150.00 (Per hour)
Travel for evaluations and court work	\$ 50.00 (Per hour)
Audio taping and mailing – when required and preauthorized	Actual costs with receipts
Copying and mailing records for subpoenas	Actual costs with receipts

¹ Psychological Evaluations are initial evaluations of an individual who has been referred for evaluation by the BPH and, who is legally in pre-commitment status.

² Update Evaluations are those cases in which a District Attorney has requested the DSH to have a Contractor conduct an updated evaluation to their initial psychological evaluation on an individual who is legally in pre-commitment status.

³ Recommitment Update Evaluations are those cases in which a District Attorney has requested the DSH to have the Contractor conduct an updated evaluation to their initial psychological evaluation of an individual who has been committed to the DSH-Coalinga as an SVP on a determinate sentence.

⁴ If an updated or replacement evaluation results in a split opinion as to whether the person subject to this article meets the criteria for commitment, the DSH shall conduct two additional evaluations in accordance with subdivision (f) of Section 6601.

⁵ Replacement Psychological Evaluations (pursuant to WIC 6603, Section c., (1) & (2)) are evaluations of an individual when the evaluator who conducted the original evaluation is no longer available.

⁶ Recommitment Psychological Evaluations (pursuant to WIC 6604.1, Sections a. & b.) are evaluations of an individual who has been committed to the DSH-Coalinga as an SVP on a determinate sentence.

⁷ Suspended Cases are evaluations that are begun but cannot be completed due to factors beyond the contractor's control (i.e. death of inmate and/or upon arrival notified that inmate was moved out of region/state).

If you are interested in applying:

- Please complete the attached application.
- Please send your current Curriculum Vitae/Resume.
- On the CV/Resume, clearly mark your five-year post licensure experience in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders annotated in the yellow highlight.
- Forensic evaluation writing sample.
- Copy of your licensure.
- Send the application to one of the following:

EMAIL: Subject: SVP Independent Evaluator
SVPIndependentPanel@dsh.ca.gov

MAIL: Attn: Emily Amooeyan
SVP Independent Evaluator
Department of State Hospitals
Forensic Services Division
1600 9th Street, Room 410
Sacramento, CA 95814 Sacramento, CA 95814