

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

**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.

Most evaluations and services are conducted remotely but may at times require travel to state prison facilities, state hospitals, county jails and county courts.

**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 (2) to one (1).

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.

**TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. Conducts forensic assessments of potential sexually violent predators, which includes consideration of diagnosis(es) and risk assessment to answer specific questions posed by the statute.
- b. Prepares and presents expert testimony in SVP probable cause hearings and civil commitment trials.
- c. Adheres to the SVP statute, regulation, and Forensic Services Division (FSD) policies, standards, and guidelines.

## 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 (5) years of post-licensure experience in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders.
4. Has at least two (2) years of experience evaluating sex offender populations.
5. Must **NOT** be a State Government or a Forensic Conditional Release Program employee.
6. Possess either:
  - a. At least twenty (20) hours of direct forensic expert witness testimony (pursuant to any state statute or penal code); OR
  - b. A minimum of five (5) hours of direct forensic expert witness testimony (pursuant to any state statute or penal code), with an additional ten (10) hours of verifiable training in the area of expert testimony; AND will acquire at least five (5) hours of additional mock expert testimony (coordinated and provided by DSH SOCP) within the first six months of the contract activation date.

**Note:** Any candidate possessing at least twenty (20) hours or more of expert will not be required to submit evidence of further training nor be required to participate in five hours of mock expert testimony.
7. In the last two (2) years, has been trained on sex offender risk assessment tools appropriate for assessing risk for sexual recidivism, including include training on the STATIC 99R (specifically required) and training on at least one (1) dynamic assessment tool is also required. This may include, but is not limited to the STABLE 2007 or the VRS-SO. If the candidate has not received this training in the last two years, they may still qualify for the contract but cannot begin accepting assignments until the completion of these trainings. The candidate may have to pursue this training on their own.
8. Three (3) references for which similar services have been provided within the last five (5) years.
9. If a California corporation, provide a copy of the corporation documents on file with the California Secretary of State certifying good standing. Corporations located outside California must submit an affidavit to show the corporation is in good standing in that state, province, or country.
10. If a psychiatrist, provide a copy of a valid physician's license issued by the Medical Board of California.
11. 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.

## PEER REVIEW, CORRECTIVE FEEDBACK, & TRAINING/PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

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.

**BUDGET DETAIL**

| <b>Service</b>  | <b>Rate</b>  |
|---|--|
| Forensic Psychological Evaluations <sup>1</sup>                               | \$4,750.00 (Per case)  |
| Rush Rate Criteria <sup>2</sup>   | \$1,000.00 (Per case)  |
| Update Forensic Evaluations <sup>3</sup>                                      | \$5,000.00 (Per case)  |
| Replacement Forensic Psychological Evaluations <sup>4</sup>                   | \$6,500.00 (Per case)  |
| Recommitment/Independent Forensic Psychological Evaluations <sup>5</sup>      | \$6,500.00 (Per case)  |
| Addendums – Upon request from DSH only  | \$ 750.00 (Per case)   |
| Suspended Cases <sup>6</sup>  | \$500.00 (Per case prior to interview)<br>\$950.00 (Per case post interview) |
| Standby <sup>7</sup>  | \$500.00 (Per case)  |
| C-File or Medical File Review (Prior approval required)                       | \$175.00 (Per case)  |
| Initial Court Prep Time <sup>8</sup>  | \$200.00 (Per hour)<br>20 hours Max of \$ 4,000 (Per case)                   |
| Additional Court Prep Time Due to Continuance <sup>9</sup>                    | \$200.00 (Per hour) 5 max \$1,000.00   |
| Mandatory DSH Trainings   | See Paragraph B. below   |
| Testimony time per subpoena (subpoena document must be provided)              | \$200.00 (Per hour)  |
| Court wait time per subpoena  | \$100.00 (Per hour)  |
| Depositions   | \$200.00 (Per hour)  |
| Travel for evaluations and court work   | \$100.00 (Per hour)  |
| Audio taping and mailing – when required and preauthorized                    | Actual costs with receipts   |
| Copying and mailing records for subpoenas                                     | Actual costs with receipts   |
| Attendance at SVP Contract Staff Meetings or Mandated Trainings <sup>10</sup> | \$100.00 per training hour<br>(up to \$600.00 per day)                       |
| Extraordinary Circumstances <sup>11</sup>                                     | \$200.00 (per hour)<br>10 hours Max \$2,000.00                               |

If you are interested in applying:

1. Please complete the attached APPLICATION TO SERVE AS A SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR (SVP) INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR FOR THE SEX OFFENDER COMMITMENT PROGRAM (SOCP).
2. Please send your current Curriculum Vitae/Resume.
  - a. On the CV/Resume, clearly mark your five-(5) year post licensure experience in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders annotated in yellow highlight.
3. Include a forensic evaluation writing sample.
4. Provide a copy of your professional licensure.
5. Send the completed application and required documents to one of the following:

**EMAIL: Subject: SVP Independent Evaluator**  
[SVPIndependentPanel@dsh.ca.gov](mailto:SVPIndependentPanel@dsh.ca.gov)

**MAIL:**  
 Attn: SVP Independent Evaluator Panel  
 Department of State Hospitals  
 Forensic Services Division  
 1215 O Street, MS-9  
 Sacramento, CA 95814