This reading list identifies resources to assist you as you progress through the ABFP certification process. At first glance, it appears daunting. However, this orientation to the reading list should make it seem less so. The literature in the field of forensic psychology is extensive, and nobody has read all of it.

This list is intended to serve two purposes. First, it contains references to key texts and seminal articles in the field that provide an overview of the major issues in forensic psychology. It also contains more extensive resources in a variety of areas of both criminal and civil law; those resources are provided for people who practice in those specific areas.

For any specific area, ABFP could develop a 20+ page bibliography, but that would be neither helpful nor practical. Instead, the list offers a sampling of some of the seminal works in each area. It is not exhaustive, and reasonable people could argue that some readings on the list are superfluous, or that other key readings are missing. It is up to each individual to determine what readings are key for a particular focus of practice.

Much of the list relies on just a few key texts, chapters of which appear in various places. Several books from the Oxford University Press are also recommended; these thin volumes provide concise coverage of a number of important topics. There is naturally some redundancy, but the list is intended to offer applicants a variety of sources from which to choose.

This reading list is organized by content area. The first section includes core resources relevant to the general practice of forensic psychology. Subsequent sections include resources relevant to specific forensic applications. In the specific forensic applications sections, “General” area readings are identified to assist candidates in attaining the level of familiarity expected for the written examination, and “Focus” area readings are identified to assist candidates in attaining the detailed knowledge expected for the oral examination when submitting a practice sample in that content area. Such distinctions may be less applicable to landmark cases insofar as they pertain to the legal basis of forensic practice and thus may be relevant to both written and oral examination preparation. Some works appear in more than one section. Most landmark legal cases are readily available on the Internet.

A few caveats are in order. First, review of the suggested readings does not constitute sufficient preparation for ABFP certification in the absence of appropriate academic and clinical training, supervision, and experience. Second, the inclusion or omission of any book, chapter, article, or legal case does not mean its contents will or will not be featured in a particular examination. Third, it is not expected that applicants will read every resource on this list; instead, a successful candidate exercises good judgment in sampling from the suggested readings based on his or her experiences. In sum, there are no explicit or implicit guarantees associated with the use of this suggested reading list.
Forensic Psychology – Fundamental Readings

Note: recommended readings in this section are applicable across practice sample content areas.

A. Forensic Psychology: Historical Foundation


B. Ethics, Guidelines, Professional Issues and Duties


Melton et al. (2018). Chapter 4: Constitutional, common-law, and ethical contours of the evaluation process: The mental health professional as double agent (pp. 66-98).

Landmark Cases


Clites v. Iowa, 322 N.W. 2d 917 (Iowa Ct. App. 1982)

Doe v. Roe, 400 N.Y.Supp.2d 668 (1977)


In Re Lifschutz, 2 Cal. 3d 415, 467 P.2d 557 (1970)

Menendez v. Superior Court, 834 P.2d 786 (1992)

C. Law, Precedents, Court Rules, Civil and Criminal Procedure

Melton et al. (2018). Chapter 2: An overview of the legal system: Sources of law, the court system, and the adjudicative process (pp. 25-41).

**Landmark Cases**

- Frye v. U.S., 295 F. 1013 (D.C. Cir. 1923)

**D. Testing and Assessment, Judgment and Bias, Examination Issues**


**Focus Area Readings**

Selection of additional readings should be individualized based on the practice sample test battery and content area. Candidates should be prepared to discuss the empirical basis of their test selection. They should be familiar with the Forensic Assessment Instruments relevant to their content area, as well as the Clinical Assessment
Instruments most often relevant to evaluations in their content area. Recommended readings are the major texts, manuals, and recent review articles for all tests used.

**Landmark Cases**

United States v. Greer, 158 F.3d 228 (1998)

**E. Communicating Forensic Opinions – Expert Testimony and Report Writing**


**Landmark Cases**

Deathage v. Examining Board of Psychology, 948 P.2d 828 (Wash. 1997)
Murphy v. A. A. Mathews, 841 S.W.2d 671 (Mo. 1992)
Applications to Criminal Proceedings

A. Competence to Stand Trial

General Area Readings

Melton et al. (2018). Chapter 6: Competence to stand trial (pp. 121-160).


Focus Area Readings


Landmark Cases

Drope v. Missouri, 420 U.S. 162 (1975)
Jackson v. Indiana, 406 U.S. 715 (1972)
Medina v. California, 505 U.S. 1244 (1992)
Pate v. Robinson, 383 U.S. 375 (1966)
Seiling v. Eyman, 478 F.2d 211 (9th Cir. 1973)
U.S. v. Duhon, 104 F. Supp. 2d 663 (W.D.La, 2000)
Wilson v. U.S., 391 F.2d 460 (D.C. Cir. 1968)
B. Other Criminal Competencies (e.g., to waive rights/be sentenced/proceed pro se)

**General Area Readings:**


Melton et al. (2018). Chapter 7: Other competencies in the criminal process (pp. 161-196).


**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**

Brown v. Mississippi, 297 U.S. 278 (1936)
Escobedo v. Illinois, 378 U.S. 478 (1964)
Fare v. Michael C., 442 U.S. 707 (1979)
Faretta v. California, 422 U.S. 806 (1975)
In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967)
U.S. v. Marble, 940 F.2d 1543 (D.C. Dir. 1991)
Whalem v. U.S., 346 F2d 812 (1965)
C. **Criminal Responsibility (including Diminished Capacity and Mens Rea Defenses)**

**General Area Readings**


Melton et al. (2018). Chapter 8: Mental state at the time of the offense (pp. 197-259).


**Focus Area Readings**

American Law Institute, *Model Penal Code* § 4.01 (1962)


**Landmark Cases**


Fouche v. Louisiana, 504 U.S. 71 (1992)

Frendak v. U.S., 408 A.2d 364 (D.C. Cir. 1979)


McDonald v. U.S., 312 F.2d 847 (1962)


M’Naghten’s Case, 10 Cl.&F. 200, 8 Eng. Rep. 718 (H.L. 1843)


Rex v. Arnold (1724)
U.S. v. Brawner, 471 F.2d 969 (D.C. Cir. 1972)

D. Death Penalty

**General Area Readings**


Melton et al. (2018). Chapter 7: Other competencies in the criminal process (pp. 161-196).


**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**

Furman v. Georgia, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)
Lawlor v. Zook (4th Cir. 2018)
Roper v. Simmons, 543 U.S. 551 (2005)
Singleton v. Norris, 319 F.3d 1018 (8th Cir. 2003)
State v. Perry, 610 So.2d 746 (La. 1992)

E. Violence Risk Assessment and Quasi-Criminal Commitment

General Area Readings


Focus Area Readings


Landmark Cases

Jablonski v. U.S., 712 F.2d 391 (9th Cir. 1983)
Tarasoff v. Board of Regents of the Univ. of California, 17 Cal. 3d 415, 551 P.2d 334, 131 Cal. Rptr. 14 (1976)

E. Sex Offender Assessment

General Area Readings


**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**

United States v. Tom, 565 F.3d 497 (8th Cir. 2009)

**F. Threat Assessment**

**General Area Readings**


**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**

Schenck v. United States (1919)
Watts v. United States (1969)
Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675, 682 (1986)
Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969)
Applications to Civil Proceedings

A. Civil Commitment & Civil Competencies
(See also sections entitled, “Violence Risk Assessment and Quasi-Criminal Commitment” and “Sex Offender Assessment.”)

General Area Readings


Focus Area Readings


Landmark Cases

Addington v. Texas, 441 U.S. 418 (1979)
Caesar v. Mountanos, 542 F. 2d 1064 (9th Cir. 1976)
Canterbury v. Spence, 464 F.2d 772 (1972)
Foucha v. Louisiana, 504 U.S. 71 (1992)
Lake v. Cameron, 364 F.2d 657 (1966)
O’Connor v. Donaldson, 422 U.S. 563 (1975)
Parham v. JR, 442 U.S. 584 (1979)
Rennie v. Klein, 653 F.2d 836 (3rd Cir. 1981)
Rennie v. Klein, 720 F.2d 266 (1983)
Rogers v. Okin, 643 F.2d 650 (1980)

B. Personal Injury and Civil Damages

General Area Readings


Focus Area Readings


Landmark Cases

Carter v. General Motors, 106 N.W.2d 105 (1960)
Christie Bros. Circus v. Turnage, 144 S.E. 680 (Ga. App. 1928)
Dillon v. Legg, 441 P.2d 912 (1968)
Gough v. Natural Gas Pipeline Co. of America, 996 F.2d 763 (5th Cir. 1993)
Molien v. Kaiser Foundation Hospital, 616 P.2d 813 (1980)
Molzof v. United States, 911 F.2d, 18 (7th Cir. 1990), rev’d, 112 S.Ct. 711 (1992)
Palsgraf v. Long Island R.R., 162 N.E. 99 (N.Y. 1928)
Waube v. Warrington, 258 N.W. 497 (1935)
C. **Worker’s Compensation/Disability Evaluation**

**General Area Readings**


**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**


D. **Discrimination (ADA) & Educational Access (IDEA)**

**General Area Readings**


Focus Area Readings


Landmark Cases

Ellison v. Brady, 924 F.2d 872 (9th Cir. 1991)
Harris v. Forklift Systems, 510 U.S. 17 (1993)
Applications to Special Populations: Juvenile/Child

A. Child Custody and Parenting

*General Area Readings*


Melton et al. (2018). Chapter 16: Child custody in divorce (pp. 530-555).

*Focus Area Readings*


*Landmark Cases*

Baltimore City Department of Social Services v. Bouknight, 493 U.S. 549 (1990)
Chapsky v. Wood, 26 Kan. 650, 42 (1881)
DeShaney v. Winnebago County Department of Social Services, 489 U.S. 189 (1989)
Idaho v. Wright, 497 U.S. 805 (1990)
Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1, 87 S. Ct. 1817 (1967)
Maryland v. Craig, 497 U.S. 836 (1990)
Painter v. Bannister, 358 Iowa 1390, 140 N.W. 2d. 152 (1966)
Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U.S. 510 (1925)
Prince v. Massachusetts, 321 U.S. 158 (1944)
Tuter v. Tuter, 120 S.W.2d. 203 (1938)
B. Child Abuse/Neglect

**General Area Readings**


**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**

DeShaney v. Winnebago County Department of Social Services, 489 U.S. 189 (1989)

Dupuy v. Samuels, 397 F. 3d 493 (7th Cir. 2005)


Landeros v. Flood, 17 Cal. 3d 399, 551 P.2d 389 (1976)

People v. Stritzinger, 34 Cal. 3d 505, 668 P.2d 738 (1983)


State v. Andring, 342 N.W.2d 128 (Minn. 1984)
C. **Juvenile Justice**

**General Area Readings**


**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**

Fare v. Michael C., 442 U.S. 707 (1979)
In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967)
In re Winship, 397 U.S. 358 (1970)
Kent v. United States, 383 U.S. 541 (1966)
McKeiver v. Pennsylvania, 403 U.S. 528 (1971)
Roper v. Simmons, 543 U.S. 551 (2005)
Other Forensic Topics

A. Police Psychology

General Area Readings


B. Juries

General Area Readings


Focus Area Readings


C. **Witness challenges**

**General Area Readings**


Melton et al. (2018). Chapter 7: Other competencies in the criminal process (pp. 161-196).


**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**


State v. Henderson, 27 A.3d 872 (N.J. 2011)


D. **Treatment in Forensic Contexts**

**General Area Readings**


Focus Area Readings


Landmark Cases