

Law and Psychology Presents Lunchtime Learning: December 5, 2024 at Noon Virtually

Using Social Media Data in Forensic Psychological Evaluations with Randy K. Otto, PhD, ABPP

Americans' use of social media has exploded in the past two decades. Adults and children post information referencing themselves on a variety of social media platforms including, but not limited to Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Tik Tok. Little commentary, however, has been offered regarding the potential utility and pitfalls of using information posted to these platforms when conducting forensic psychological examinations. Although some professional organizations have developed guidelines for how psychologists should use social media data, all of these documents are focused on psychologists when acting as treatment providers. After reviewing the potential value and limitations of using data gathered from social media data, factors psychologists should consider when contemplating use of these in forensic examination contexts are discussed.

Fee: NCPA Members - \$20.00; Non-members - \$45.00

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Educational Format: Lecture and discussion

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the institute, participants will be able to:

1. describe the frequency with which Americans use social media platforms,
2. list two ways social media data may provide information relevant to matters of concern in forensic evaluations,
3. identify three ways psychologists may access social media data when conducting forensic examinations,
4. identify 3 factors psychologists should consider when contemplating use of social media data in forensic examination contexts.



Instructor:

Randy Otto is board certified in clinical psychology and forensic psychology (ABPP), and has been a faculty member at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale since August 2022. Previous to that he was at the University of South Florida for 33 years where he taught graduate courses in ethical and legal issues in the psychology and mental health counseling programs.

Dr. Otto has edited and authored books on forensic psychological assessment, ethics in forensic psychology practice, violence risk assessment, criminal competencies, and testifying and report writing. He chaired the committee that revised APA's Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology and he served on the ABA committee that revised the Criminal Justice Mental Health Standards. Dr. Otto, who currently serves as the Executive Director of the American Board of Forensic Psychology, has received awards for his contributions to professional psychology from the University of Nebraska, the New York State Psychological Association, the American Psychology-Law Society, the American Academy of Forensic Psychology, and the American Board of Professional Psychology.

Continuing Education Information: This workshop is sponsored by the North Carolina Psychological Association (NCPA). NCPA is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer Continuing Education (CE) for psychologists. NCPA maintains responsibility for this program and its content. **This workshop is offered for 1 hour of Category A credit.**

Attendance Requirement for CE Credit:

To receive CE credit, you must attend the entire workshop. No credit will be given to participants who are more than 5 minutes late at the beginning of the workshop. You must be present at the close of the workshop and sign-in and sign-out. You may not be excused early. Partial credit is not provided.

Citations: Available upon request.