

# QUICK FACTS

## TELEPSYCHOLOGY FOR FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1

The American Psychological Association established guidelines for the practice of telepsychology in 2013; recommendations are now available specifically for practice with forensic and correctional clients (Batastini, Guyton et al., 2023).

2

The first documented clinic for forensic mental health services was established in the early 2000s to help support rural counties (Miller et al., 2005).

3

The estimated number of forensic mental health examiners who reported using videoconferencing in their practice immediately following the COVID-19 pandemic was 60% (Daffern et al., 2021), compared to only about 34% pre-pandemic (Batastini et al., 2020).

4

Competency to proceed evaluations conducted remotely have been found to produce similar opinions as those conducted in-person (Lexcen et al., 2006; Manguno-Mire et al., 2007).

5

Experience with remote forensic mental health evaluations (even just one evaluation) can reduce concerns and increase confidence regarding its use (Batastini et al., 2019; Tripp et al., 2021; Bernhard et al., 2021).

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Psychotic or delusional symptoms do not inherently impair forensic clinical interviews conducted remotely (Luxton & Niemi, 2020; Magaletta et al., 2000).

7

Courts have substantiated the use of remote forensic mental health evaluations and appear to recognize the benefits of virtual practices for increasing access to providers (e.g., *Coleman et al v. Brown et al.*, 2018).

8

Emerging research suggests forensic mental health experts who testify remotely are seen as similarly credible and efficacious compared to those who testify in-court (Jones et al., 2023).

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Overall, there is little evidence that a remote environment alone compromises the validity of a forensic mental health evaluation or compromises it to a greater degree than other factors that can impact validity, such as a defendant's unreliable self-report or examiner bias.

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Jail-based competency restoration programs that provide services remotely have shown promise in reducing time from incarceration to restoration relative to in-person services (Lewis et al., 2023).

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Incarcerated clients who receive services remotely report comparable levels of service satisfaction as those receiving in-person services (Brodey et al., 2000; Morgan et al., 2008).

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Remote technologies like videoconferencing can reduce costs to courts and taxpayers, improve access to qualified providers, help manage the significant backlog of requests for forensic mental health services, and move people more quickly through the legal system.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND HERE: [HTTPS://AP-LS.ORG/RESOURCES/TELEPSYCHOLOGY/TELEPSYCHOLOGY.HTML](https://ap-ls.org/resources/telepsychology/telepsychology.html)