

New York State Department of Civil Service
DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Classification Standard

Occ. Code 6157120

Psychiatric Examiner (Psychologist), Grade 27	6157120
Chief Psychiatric Examiner (Psychologist), M-4	6157200

Brief Description of Class Series

Positions in this title series conduct psychiatric examinations of convicted and detained sex offenders nearing the end of their criminal sentences, as stipulated in the Sex Offender Management Treatment Act (SOMTA) and Article 10 of the Mental Hygiene Law (MHL), to determine whether individuals suffer from a mental abnormality and require civil management in a secure treatment facility, or release under Strict and Intensive Supervision and Treatment (SIST) in the community. Incumbents travel extensively; provide expert testimony at Article 10 legal proceedings; and conduct a variety of Article 10 related psychiatric examinations.

Positions are classified in the Office of Mental Health (OMH), Division of Forensic Services (DFS).

Distinguishing Characteristics

Psychiatric Examiner (Psychologist): full performance level; conducts record reviews, clinical interviews, and psychological testing to determine whether sex offenders suffer from a mental abnormality and require civil management; provides expert testimony regarding case findings at MHL Article 10 legal proceedings; and conducts a variety of Article 10 related psychiatric examinations.

Chief Psychiatric Examiner (Psychologist): managerial level; manages, directs, and oversees Psychiatric Examiners (Psychologist) throughout the State; and provides clinical expertise, technical direction, oversight, and guidance related to Article 10 psychiatric examinations, legal proceedings, and decision-making.

Illustrative Duties

Psychiatric Examiner (Psychologist)

Conducts psychiatric evaluations of individuals who are statutorily referred for civil management consideration under SOMTA.

- Evaluates convicted sex offenders nearing the end of their criminal sentences to determine whether they suffer from a mental abnormality that predisposes them to commit sex offenses and results in a serious difficulty controlling such conduct, as defined in MHL Article 10.
- Conducts annual evaluations of those civilly confined to secure treatment facilities to determine whether they remain dangerous and in need of confinement; and re-evaluates individuals as necessary.
- Re-evaluates those determined to suffer from a mental abnormality to assess their current level of dangerousness pursuant to Article 10 of the MHL.
- Evaluates those in violation of their SIST conditions to determine whether these conditions need to be modified, or civil confinement is warranted based on an individual's current level of dangerousness.
- Conducts bi-annual evaluations of SIST clients to determine whether release from civil management or a reduction in the conditions of SIST is appropriate.
- Administers, scores, and interprets results of actuarial and other standardized risk assessment tools (e.g., Static-99R, Violence Risk Scale: Sexual Offender (VRS: SO), Severe Sexual Sadism Scale, Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI), Psychopathy Checklist – Revised (PCL-R), Stable-2007/Acute-2007).
- Interviews collateral contacts (e.g., family members, treatment providers, social supports); prepares detailed reports summarizing review and evaluation findings for use in Article 10 evaluations, legal proceedings, and by secure treatment and/or SIST community providers.
- Consults with DFS staff members of the Case Review Team (CRT) and the SIST team to assist in making and validating case outcome decisions; and makes recommendations to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG).
- Provides expert testimony at probable cause hearings, civil management trials and disposition hearings, annual review hearings, SIST violation hearings, SIST bi-annual hearings, and other Article 10 legal proceedings to defend case outcome decisions based on evaluation findings.
- Collaborates with staff in OMH Central Office and secure treatment facilities, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, community SIST treatment providers, OAG, Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, and other State and local agency staff on sex offender treatment and assessment issues and best practices.

- Provides clinical case consultation to staff at secure treatment facilities and SIST community treatment providers regarding appropriate treatment interventions and risk-relevant factors.
- May provide training on the assessment and evaluation of sex offenders to other DFS staff, OMH psychiatric centers, Secure Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, and Article 10 stakeholders.

Chief Psychiatric Examiner (Psychologist)

May perform the duties of a Psychiatric Examiner (Psychologist); and supervises Psychiatric Examiners (Psychologist) and other DFS staff.

- Plans and oversees staff assignments; evaluates staff performance; and monitors time and attendance.
- Interviews, recruits, and selects staff for clinical review and psychiatric examination functions.
- Develops and conducts training programs related to clinical treatment, assessment, and psychiatric examination protocols for new and existing staff.
- Provides testimony on behalf of psychiatric examiners who are unavailable and/or unable to testify in assigned cases where an evaluation was completed.

Provides clinical direction, oversight, and guidance for psychiatric examinations, clinical interventions, and release decision-making.

- Serves as a clinical and technical expert for the OMH civil management program; responds to questions related to review and examination findings; reviews reports and examination findings; and identifies and resolves issues to ensure the appropriate handling of cases and quality of services.
- Provides clinical expertise and guidance to psychiatric examiners, OMH attorneys, DFS leadership, and OAG in legal proceedings and determinations.
- Testifies as needed and prepares clinical staff to provide expert testimony at Article 10 legal proceedings.
- Acts as a resource to Community Supervision Officers and SIST treatment providers that supervise, treat, and manage sex offenders in the community.

Functions as a member of the DFS management team.

- Reviews court decisions, recommends changes to clinical review and psychiatric examination processes and procedures accordingly, and contributes to DFS civil

management program planning and policy decisions.

- Evaluates program operations, develops resource allocation strategies, and negotiates for resources to meet program needs.
- Participates in DFS civil management budget development activities.

Minimum Qualifications

Psychiatric Examiner (Psychologist)

Open Competitive: license and current registration to practice psychology in New York State; and one year of pre- or post-licensure experience in the clinical assessment or treatment of a sex offender population; or two years of pre- or post-licensure experience in the clinical assessment or treatment of a forensic population.

Chief Psychiatric Examiner (Psychologist)

Promotion: one year of service as a Psychiatric Examiner (Psychologist).

Note: Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent, and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum qualifications for appointment or examination.

Date: 2/2026

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