

Diane A. Tennies, PhD, LADC, CCS
Forensic Psychologist

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Forensic Practice Summary

Maine licensed psychologist with three decades of forensic experience conducting court-ordered and retained evaluations in criminal, civil, and family court matters. Routinely qualified as an expert witness in Maine District, Superior, Probate, and U.S. District Courts. Areas of expertise include adjudicative competence, criminal responsibility, sentencing mitigation, violence and sexual risk assessment, neurodevelopmental disorders, substance use conditions, and parenting capacity. Extensive experience testifying, supervising and consulting in cases involving mental health conditions, substance use disorders, intimate partner violence, family-court related evaluations, risk assessment, and the application of psychological findings to legal standards across criminal, civil, and family court matters.

Education

PhD in Psychology, University of Maine, Orono, ME (1997), APA-accredited program
Dissertation: Reciprocity Styles and the Perception of Marital Adjustment and Equity

BA in Psychology and Human Services, State University of New York at Buffalo (1984)
Magna Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa

Licensure and Credentials

Psychologist, State of Maine (1998)
Alcohol and Drug Counselor, State of Maine (1996)
Certified Clinical Supervisor, State of Maine (2026)
National Register Health Service Psychologist (2012)
Court-Rostered Guardian ad Litem, State of Maine (1999)
Certified Parenting Coordinator (2008)

Forensic Evaluation and Expert Witness Experience

Forensic Evaluator, Maine State Forensic Service (2007–Present)

- Court-ordered evaluations regarding adjudicative competence, criminal responsibility, abnormal condition of the mind, other mental conditions, and sentencing mitigation
- Expert testimony regarding findings and forensic opinions

Forensic Supervisor, Maine State Forensic Service (2025–2026)

- Provides supervisory oversight, consultation, and quality review for evaluators conducting parental capacity evaluations (PCEs) through the State Forensic Service.

Private Forensic Practice (1998–Present)

- Qualified and testified as an expert witness in criminal, civil, and family court matters in Maine District, Superior, Probate, and Federal District Courts
- Evaluations of criminal defendants including competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility, sentencing mitigation, and risk assessment
 - Evaluations addressing mental health conditions, substance-related conditions, intimate partner violence, and violence and sexual recidivism risk
- Family court evaluations including parenting capacity, child maltreatment risk, guardianship, and family dynamics
- Neurodevelopmental and developmental disability eligibility evaluations
- Review and critique of forensic interviews and psychological evaluations
- Guardianship evaluations (including Maine PP-505)
- Consulting expert services to attorneys

Child Protection and Family Court Forensic Roles

Evaluator, Court Ordered Diagnostic Evaluation Project (CODE) (2013–2018)

Evaluator and Peer Reviewer, Child Abuse and Neglect Evaluators Project (CANEP) (2003–2013)

Guardian ad Litem, State of Maine (1999–Present)

Professional Leadership

Guardian ad Litem Review Board, Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar

- Chair (2022–2024); Vice Chair (2015–2022)

Maine Psychological Association

- President (2014–2016)
- Chair, Legislative Committee (2008–2014; 2016–Present)

Academic and Forensic Teaching

Adjunct Graduate Faculty, Clinical Psychology, University of Maine (2008–2018)

Adjunct Faculty, Criminal Justice, Husson University (2014–2015)

Selected Publications

Prescott, D., & Tennies, D. (2019). Bias is a reciprocal relationship: Forensic mental health professionals and lawyers in the family court bottle. *Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers*, 31, 427–461.

Prescott, D., & Tennies, D. (2017). The lawyer as guardian ad litem. *Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers*, 30, 379–394.

Selected Forensic Presentations

- Psychological Evaluations in Forensic Contexts, National Organization of Forensic Social Work (2023–2026)

- Mental Illness and Its Impact on Parenting, Guardian ad Litem Core Training, Maine State Bar Association (2022–2026)
- Forensic Psychological Evaluations, Risk Assessments, and Expert Testimony (2021)