

# Dana W. Oertel, Psy.D.

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## Education

### **Doctor of Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.)**

*APA-Accredited Clinical Psychology Program*

William James College

Newton, Massachusetts | August 2012 – August 2015

### **Master of Arts, Forensic and Counseling Psychology**

Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology

Boston, Massachusetts | September 2010 – June 2012

### **Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, *cum laude***

Minors: Biology and Music

Assumption College

Worcester, Massachusetts | September 2006 – May 2010

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## Professional Experience

### **California Forensic Psychology Associates, Inc.** | Napa, CA

**Director** | August 2017 – Present

- Conduct comprehensive child and family forensic evaluations, including parenting plan evaluations and other court-related psychological evaluations
- Consult with attorneys on complex child and family forensic matters, including case strategy, psychological issues, and interpretation of evaluation findings
- Prepare integrated forensic reports and provide expert psychological opinions for legal proceedings
- Provide individual psychotherapy utilizing evidence-based treatment approaches

### **Department of State Hospitals – Napa** | Napa, CA

**Unit Psychologist** | 2016 – 2021, 2022-2023, Jan 2026-Present

- Provide competency restoration services to individuals adjudicated incompetent to stand trial in an inpatient setting
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary treatment team to support patient rehabilitation and recovery
- Complete frequent suicide and violence risk assessments
- Serve as Assessment Supervisor for the APA-accredited Psychology Internship Program, providing supervision, training, and mentorship to doctoral psychology interns

### **Senior Psychologist Specialist** – Forensic Services Department | March 2023 – December 2025

- Conducted forensic evaluations addressing competency to stand trial
- Provided consultation to interdisciplinary treatment teams regarding psychological assessment, treatment planning, and forensic issues.

**Senior Psychologist Specialist – Cognitive Rehabilitation Program | Jan 2021 – Jan 2022**

- Co-facilitated a specialized Cognitive Rehabilitation Program for individuals with serious mental illness and cognitive impairment
- Provided psychological consultation to interdisciplinary treatment teams regarding cognitive functioning and treatment interventions
- Supervised psychiatric technicians and developed training in cognitive rehabilitation principles, behavioral interventions, and management of patients with severe aggression and cognitive impairment

**Department of State Hospitals – Forensic Services Division | Sacramento, CA**

**Consulting Psychologist – November 2022 – March 2024**

- Conducted forensic evaluations addressing competency to stand trial

**Center of Excellence for Children, Families, and the Law**

Child and Family Evaluation Service | Newton, MA

**Postdoctoral Fellow | September 2015 – August 2016**

Supervisor: Robin M. Deutsch, Ph.D., ABPP

- Conducted comprehensive parenting plan (child custody) evaluations involving complex family systems, relocation disputes, allegations of abuse, and high-conflict co-parenting.
- Completed court-ordered parenting evaluations, including Care and Protection evaluations and brief focused assessments addressing specific referral questions.
- Co-facilitated psychoeducational High-Conflict Parenting Classes designed to reduce parental conflict and improve co-parenting following separation and divorce.

**Center for Lifespan Development | Newton, MA**

**Fee-for-Service Therapist | March 2016 – August 2016**

- Provided weekly individual psychotherapy to an adolescent client experiencing challenges related to educational transition, family dynamics, and psychosocial adjustment.
- Collaborated with caregivers to support treatment goals and promote healthy family functioning.
- Developed and implemented individualized treatment plans informed by ongoing clinical assessment.

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**Clinical  
Training**

**Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital**

Worcester, MA

Psychology Trainee

July 2014-

July 2015

- Conducted various assessments including violence risk, substance abuse risk, suicide risk, and fire setting risk with individuals diagnosed with a serious mental illness (SMI)
  - Facilitated various treatment groups
  - Carried a caseload of 3-4 individual therapy clients
  - Facilitated Cognitive Enhancement Rehabilitation Therapy (CERT) groups to help reduce cognitive decline associated with SMI diagnoses and to increase positive self-talk and goal achievement through computer-based exercises
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## **Certifications**

### **Certificate in Child and Family Forensic Issues**

Coursework included five 28-hour classes:

- Child Custody Evaluations
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Child Maltreatment
- Juvenile Justice
- Parenting Coordination

### **Forensic Proficiency Certificate**

- Coursework included 20 hours of didactic training provided by the Department of State Hospitals, CA

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**Presentations** Parenting Under Fire: Resilience in Children Growing up in Military Families  
53rd Annual AFCC Conference

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