This reading list identifies resources to assist you as you progress through the ABFP certification process; however, the following caveats should be considered. First, review of the suggested readings does not constitute sufficient preparation for ABFP certification in the absence of appropriate academic and clinical training, supervision, and experience. Second, the inclusion or omission of any book, chapter, article, or legal case does not mean its contents will or will not be featured in a particular examination. Third, it may not be necessary to read every resource on this list; more often, a successful candidate exercises good judgment in sampling from the suggested readings based on his or her experiences. In sum, there are no explicit or implicit guarantees associated with the use of this suggested reading list.

This reading list is organized by content area. The first section includes core resources relevant to the general practice of forensic psychology, whereas subsequent sections include resources relevant to specific forensic applications. In the specific forensic applications sections, “General” area readings are identified to assist candidates in attaining the level of familiarity expected for the written examination, and “Focus” area readings are identified to assist candidates in attaining the detailed knowledge expected for the oral examination when submitting a practice sample in that content area. Such distinctions may be less applicable to landmark cases insofar as they pertain to the legal basis of forensic practice and thus may be relevant to both written and oral examination preparation. An asterisk (*) indicates a reading or case is relevant to multiple content areas; however, this does not necessarily imply the reading or case is more important than those listed just once.

Most landmark cases are readily available on the Internet. For your convenience and to facilitate your preparation for board certification, the American Academy of Forensic Psychology (AAFP) has assembled approximately 140 of the most recent and/or influential decisions listed below, as well as the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and of Evidence, onto a CD-ROM. This compendium of cases is available for purchase at www.prpress.com.
Forensic Psychology – Fundamental Readings

Note: recommended readings in this section are applicable across practice sample content areas.

A. Forensic Psychology, Historical Foundation


B. Ethics, Guidelines, Professional Issues and Duties


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 4: Constitutional, common-law, and ethical contours of the evaluation process: The mental health professional as double agent (pp. 86-99).


Landmark Cases

Clites v. Iowa, 322 N.W. 2d 917 (Iowa Ct. App. 1982)
Doe v. Roe, 400 N.Y.Supp.2d 668 (1977)
In Re Lifschutz, 2 Cal. 3d 415, 467 P.2d 557 (1970)
Menendez v. Superior Court, 834 P.2d 786 (1992)
C. Law, Precedents, Court Rules, Civil and Criminal Procedure


Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (especially 26 and 35) and of Evidence (especially 401-403, 501, 701-705, 801-806).

Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 2: An overview of the legal system: Sources of law, the court system, and the adjudicative process (pp. 26-40).

**Landmark Cases**
- Frye v. U.S., 295 F. 1013 (D.C. Cir. 1923)

D. Testing and Assessment, Judgment and Bias, Examination Issues


Focus Area Readings

Selection of additional readings should be individualized based on the practice sample test battery and content area. Candidates should be prepared to discuss the empirical basis of their test selection. They should be familiar with the Forensic Assessment Instruments relevant to their content area, as well as the Clinical Assessment Instruments most often relevant to evaluations in their content area. Recommended readings are the major texts, manuals, and recent review articles for all tests used.

Landmark Cases
Hall v. Florida, 472 U.S. _ (2014)*
United States v. Greer, 158 F.3d 228 (1998)

E. Communicating Forensic Opinions - Expert Testimony and Report Writing


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 18: Communication, report writing, and expert testimony (pp. 577-605).


Landmark Cases
Deatherage v. Examining Board of Psychology, 948 P.2d 828 (Wash. 1997)
Murphy v. A. A. Mathews, 841 S.W.2d 671 (Mo. 1992)
Jenkins v. U.S., 307 F.2d. 637 (D.C. Cir. 1961)*

Applications to Criminal Proceedings

A. Competence to Stand Trial

General Area Readings
Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 6: Competence to stand trial (pp. 125-164).

**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**

*Landmark Cases*

Ake v. Oklahoma, 470 U.S. 68 (1985)*


Drope v. Missouri, 420 U.S. 162 (1975)


Jackson v. Indiana, 406 U.S. 715 (1972)

Medina v. California, 505 U.S. 1244 (1992)

Pate v. Robinson, 383 U.S. 375 (1966)


Seiling v. Eyman, 478 F.2d 211 (9th Cir. 1973)


U.S. v. Duhon, 104 F. Supp. 2d 663 (W.D.La, 2000)

Wilson v. U.S., 391 F.2d 460 (D.C. Cir. 1968)

**B. Other Criminal Competencies** (e.g., to waive rights/be sentenced/proceed pro se)

**General Area Readings:**


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 7: Other competencies in the criminal process (pp. 165-200).

Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 9: Sentencing (pp. 269-320).
Focus Area Readings


Landmark Cases

Brown v. Mississippi, 297 U.S. 278 (1936)
Escobedo v. Illinois, 378 U.S. 478 (1964)
Fare v. Michael C., 442 U.S. 707 (1979)*
Faretta v. California, 422 U.S. 806 (1975)
In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967)*
U.S. v. Marble, 940 F.2d 1543 (D.C. Dir. 1991)
Wha lem v. U.S.S., 346 F2d 812 (1965)

C. Criminal Responsibility (including Diminished Capacity and Mens Rea Defenses)

General Area Readings


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 8: Mental state at the time of the offense (pp. 201-268).


Focus Area Readings

American Law Institute, Model Penal Code §4.01 (1962)


Landmark Cases
Ake v. Oklahoma, 470 U.S. 68 (1985)*
Foucha v. Louisiana, 504 U.S. 71 (1992)*
Frendak v. U.S., 408 A.2d 364 (D.C. Cir. 1979)
McDonald v. U.S., 312 F.2d 847 (1962)
M'Naghten's Case, 10 Cl.&F. 200, 8 Eng. Rep. 718 (H.L. 1843)
Rex v. Arnold (1724)
U.S. v. Brawner, 471 F.2d 969 (D.C. Cir. 1972)

D. Death Penalty

General Area Readings


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 7: Other competencies in the criminal process (pp. 193-199).
Focus Area Readings


Landmark Cases

Barefoot v. Estelle, 463 U.S. 880 (1983)*
Furman v. Georgia, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)
Hall v. Florida, 472 U.S. _ (2014)*
Roper v. Simmons, 543 U.S. 551 (2005)*
Singleton v. Norris, 319 F.3d 1018 (8th Cir. 2003)
State v. Perry, 610 So.2d 746 (La. 1992)

E. Violence Risk Assessment and Quasi-Criminal Commitment

General Area Readings


Focus Area Readings


**Landmark Cases**

Barefoot v. Estelle, 463 U.S. 880 (1983)*
Jablonski v. U.S., 712 F.2d 391 (9th Cir. 1983)
Tarasoff v. Board of Regents of the Univ. of California, 17 Cal. 3d 415, 551 P.2d 334, 131 Cal. Rptr. 14 (1976)

**Applications to Civil Proceedings**

**A. Civil Commitment & Civil Competencies**

(See also section entitled, “Violence Risk Assessment and Quasi-Criminal Commitment”)

**General Area Reading**


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 10: Civil commitment (pp. 297-335).

Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 11: Civil competencies (pp. 337-362).


**Focus Area Reading**


**Landmark Cases**

Addington v. Texas, 441 U.S. 418 (1979)
Caesar v. Mountainos, 542 F.2d 1064 (9th Cir. 1976)
Canterbury v. Spence, 464 F.2d 772 (1972)
Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97 (1976)*
Foucha v. Louisiana, 504 U.S. 71 (1992)*
Lake v. Cameron, 364 F.2d 657 (1966)
Parham v. JR, 442 U.S. 584 (1979)
Rennie v. Klein, 653 F.2d 836 (3rd Cir. 1981)
Rennie v. Klein, 720 F.2d 266 (1983)
Rogers v. Okin, 643 F.2d 650 (1980)

**B. Personal Injury and Civil Damages**

**General Area Reading**


**Focus Area Reading**


**Landmark Cases**

Carter v. General Motors, 106 N.W.2d 105 (1960)
Christie Bros. Circus v. Turnage, 144 S.E. 680 (Ga. App. 1928)
Dillon v. Legg, 441 P.2d 912 (1968)
Gough v. Natural Gas Pipeline Co. of America, 996 F.2d 763 (5th Cir. 1993)
Molien v. Kaiser Foundation Hospital, 616 P.2d 813 (1980)
Molzof v. United States, 911 F.2d, 18 (7th Cir. 1990), rev’d, 112 S.Ct. 711 (1992)
Palsgraf v. Long Island R.R., 162 N.E. 99 (N.Y. 1928)
Waube v. Warrington, 258 N.W. 497 (1935)

C. Worker’s Compensation/Disability Evaluation

General Area Readings


Focus Area Reading


Landmark Cases


D. Discrimination (ADA) & Educational Access (IDEA)

General Area Readings


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 17: Education and habilitation (pp. 564-574).
**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**

- Ellison v. Brady, 924 F.2d 872 (9th Cir. 1991)

**Applications to Special Populations: Juvenile/Child**

**A. Child Custody and Parenting**

**General Area Readings**


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 16: Child custody in divorce (pp. 539-562).

**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**
- Baltimore City Department of Social Services v. Bouknight, 493 U.S. 549 (1990)
- Chapsky v. Wood, 26 Kan. 650, 42 (1881)
- DeShaney v. Winnebago County Department of Social Services, 489 U.S. 189 (1989)*
- Idaho v. Wright, 497 U.S. 805 (1990)
- Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1, 87 S. Ct. 1817 (1967)
- Maryland v. Craig, 497 U.S. 836 (1990)
- Painter v. Bannister, 358 Iowa 1390, 140 N.W. 2d. 152 (1966)
- Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U.S. 510 (1925)
- Prince v. Massachusetts, 321 U.S. 158 (1944)
- Tuter v. Tuter, 120 S.W.2d. 203 (1938)

**B. Child Abuse/Neglect**

**General Area Readings:**


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 15: Child abuse and neglect (pp. 441-482).

**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**
DeShaney v. Winnebago County Department of Social Services, 489 U.S. 189 (1989)*
Dupuy v. Samuels, 397 F. 3d 493 (7th Cir. 2005)
Landeros v. Flood, 17 Cal. 3d 399, 551 P.2d 389 (1976)
People v. Stritzinger, 34 Cal. 3d 505, 668 P.2d 738 (1983)
State v. Andring, 342 N.W.2d 128 (Minn. 1984)

**C. Juvenile Justice**

**General Area Readings**

**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**
Fare v. Michael C., 442 U.S. 707 (1979)*
In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967)*
In re Winship, 397 U.S. 358 (1970)
Kent v. United States, 383 U.S. 541 (1966)
McKeiver v. Pennsylvania, 403 U.S. 528 (1971)
Roper v. Simmons, 543 U.S. 551 (2005)*

Other Forensic Topics

A. Police Psychology

General Area Readings


B. Juries

General Area Readings


Focus Area Readings


C. Witness challenges

**General Area Readings**


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 7: Other competencies in the criminal process (pp. 179-191).*


**Focus Area Readings**


**Landmark Cases**


State v. Henderson, 27 A.3d 872 (N.J. 2011)


D. Treatment in Forensic Contexts

**General Area Readings**


**Focus Area Readings**


Melton et al. (2007). Chapter 5: Managing public and private forensic services (pp. 101-122).


**Landmark Cases**

Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97 (1976)*