

**Coaching Clients to Take Psychological and Neuropsychological Tests:
A Clash of Ethical Obligations.**

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Publication: Professional Psychology: Research and Practice 2004 Aug Vol 35(4) 373-379

Abstract

The coaching of clients by attorneys on how to "beat" psychological tests in the context of personal injury or disability litigation poses a serious concern for the practice of psychological assessment. This article reviews the empirical literature with respect to the effects of coaching on psychological tests, discusses current ethical and legal standards relevant to coaching on psychological tests, and offers suggestions on how the field of assessment psychology might deal with this challenge. This review has important implications for all clinicians conducting psychological and neuropsychological assessments in forensic settings. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2008 APA, all rights reserved)

**Coaching: Ethical and Legal Standards
Psychological Ethics
(Excerpt)**

Psychologists have an ethical obligation to protect the integrity of the tests they use (Section 9.11 of the American Psychological Association [APA] Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of conduct, 2002). Thus, it is clearly unethical for psychologists to coach their clients on the tests they administer because it seeks to invalidate test results. The Ethics Code addresses the responsibility of psychologists to ensure that the opinions they render are based on reliable and valid measures, and that interpretation of assessment results taken into account a host of other factors, including situational differences that might affect the psychologist's ability to report accurate interpretations of the data (Sections 9.02b, 9.06). On the basis of the evidence described earlier, attorney coaching appears to represent an important situation factor that the psychologist is obligated to consider while interpreting psychological test results.

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