



## **Offender with a Mental Health Disorder (OMD) Evaluator Panel**

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 2978(b), the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) annually locate and contact Independent professionals who are eligible and willing to serve as Independent Evaluators for the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH).

The following will briefly outline the background of the Offender with a Mental Health Disorder (OMD) program pursuant to Penal Code Section 2960-2981, and explain the role of evaluators and the application process:

### **BACKGROUND**

Penal Code Section 2960 (PC 2960) et. seq. provides for a system of evaluation and subsequent mental health treatment a condition of parole for certain CDCR inmates.

### **ROLE OF INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS**

Independent Evaluators are appointed and used by BPH under the following circumstances:

1. When there is non concurrence between CDCR and DSH on whether a prisoner met OMD criteria for involuntary psychiatric treatment as a condition of parole, the independent evaluator will then conduct a subsequent evaluation pursuant to PC 2962(d)(2). Evaluations are conducted at CDCR institutions;
2. As requested by the parolee/patient or his/her attorney for certification (PC 2966(a)), placement (PC 2964(b)), or annual review (PC 2966(c)) hearings conducted by BPH . Evaluations are conducted at state hospitals or in a Forensic Conditional Release Program throughout the State.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for appointment by BPH, Independent Evaluators must meet the following criteria:

Clinicians must satisfy the following MQs annually to be appointed:

1. Referral by DSH and CDCR pursuant to Penal Code section 2978;
2. Submit a current resume/curriculum vitae;
3. Possess five years full time work experience in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders pursuant to Penal Code section 2978;
4. Possess and maintain a current, valid license in good standing with the California Board of Psychology;
5. Not currently an OMD contractor with the Department of State Hospitals (DSH);



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6. Provide annual documentation of symptom free tuberculin skin testing and evaluation;
7. Meet the necessary requirements to be eligible for entrance to each of the panel's facilities, and follow all institution and hospital dress code requirements, including seasonal requirements for flu shots or wearing a breathing mask;
8. Attend the OMD orientation in full (including at least one hour regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act);
9. Annually sign and submit the OMD Evaluator Participation Form;
10. Open and maintain an account in the Board's Disability & Effective Communication System (DECS) database. The DECS database is a comprehensive repository of information related to each offender's disabilities. Clinicians are to provide at own cost all hardware/software that will enable access to this database information; and
11. Open and maintain a "WatchDox/Workspaces" account by registering an email address for access to electronic email files.

### **Exclusion:**

1. Pursuant to state law, clinicians shall not be California state government employees;
2. Penal Code section 2978(a) reads "[a]ny independent professionals appointed by the Board of Parole Hearings for purposes of this article shall not be state government employees." Therefore, no CDCR or DSH employees (whether full time, part time, or contract) may be used by the Board for independent OMD evaluations.

### **APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION**

Independent Evaluators are appointed and compensated by BPH. The rate paid for the current fiscal year is \$750.00 per evaluation and is inclusive of: 1) a review of all available CDCR files and the prisoner/parolee's medical (psychiatric) records, 2) an examination of the prisoner/parolee, 3) a written evaluation report.



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### Compensation Rate:

The compensation rates for completing OMD evaluations are \$750.00 for a certification report, \$650.00 for an annual report, and \$550.00 for a placement report.

Description of Service Rendered	Reimbursement Rate
Certification Report	\$750.00
Annual Report	\$650.00
Placement Report	\$550.00

### APPOINTMENT TO BPH's LIST OF INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS

If you are interested in being considered by BPH as an Independent Evaluator, please provide a completed application to [BPHIndependentPanelApp@dsh.ca.gov](mailto:BPHIndependentPanelApp@dsh.ca.gov) or by U.S. mail to:

Department of State Hospitals Forensic Services Division  
1600 9th Street, 4th Floor, Room 410  
Sacramento, California 95814

If you are currently on the DSH/CDCR Independent Evaluator list for Fiscal Year 2020/2021, **you must resubmit your application for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.**

If you are included on DSH/CDCR Independent Evaluator list for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 and at any time during the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 there is a change in your status (you become a State Government or CONREP employee, or your license has been revoked, etc.), you must contact Emily Amooeyan at [emily.amooeyan@dsh.ca.gov](mailto:emily.amooeyan@dsh.ca.gov) in order to have your name removed from the list.

### DEADLINE

The deadline for the submission of the application to the Department of State Hospitals is **Monday, July 1, 2021.**

If you have any questions regarding the BPH process for choosing Independent Evaluators from the list, please contact BPH at (916) 445-4072.



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**General Questions:**

[MDO.independentEvals@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:MDO.independentEvals@cdcr.ca.gov) or [BPHIndependentPanelApp@dsh.ca.gov](mailto:BPHIndependentPanelApp@dsh.ca.gov)