



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2007

I27 Autistic Spectrum Disorders: Forensic and Educational Implications

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how to Define IDEA, FAPE, and additional legislation regarding special education needs; the role of a child and forensic psychiatrist in performing diagnostic, developmental, and educational needs assessment; and review the administrative due process hearing, appeals process, and evidentiary standards, and ethical differences between an attorney and an expert in special education disputes.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by enhancing knowledge about IDEA, FAPE, and role of a child and forensic psychiatrist in performing diagnostic, developmental, and educational needs assessment in autism.

Autism is one of the most widely recognized and reliably diagnosed developmental disorders and its prevalence and diagnosis has increased in recent years.

The paper will define Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and its application to Autistic spectrum illnesses. It will include case law regarding school based litigation and definitions of terms, "meaningful benefit," "reasonable choice," and "least restrictive environment (LRE)."

Using case vignettes, psychiatric and educational assessment of children with autism will be addressed. Use of multi-domain assessment tools in autism and preparation of report and testimony for an administrative hearing will be discussed. Finally, various educational interventions in autism including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and TEACH will be addressed along with differences in ethical goals between an expert and an attorney involved in autism related school litigation.

IDEA, Free Appropriate Education, Least Restrictive Environment