

Criminal Psychologist Job Description

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Carry out a mental assessment of suspect to determine their psychological status and fitness for trial
- Evaluate parents in a child custody case to determine who is most suitable to take custody of a child
- Provide results/materials that can serve as a valid evidence in a court trial
- Stand as expert witnesses in a law court to testify for or against a prosecution/defense
- Assist with the assessment and selection of the members of the jury for a trial
- Assess and counsel prison inmates aiding them in rehabilitation and social reintegration to reduce the risk of re-offense
- Teach principles of criminal psychology to psychology majors in colleges and universities
- Engage in research and surveys to identify the reasons behind the perpetration of a crime
- Apply the results of the research in the assessment and interview of a suspect
- Assist law enforcement agencies in creating a profile for an unknown criminal offender
- Evaluate police methods to recommend necessary adjustments that will boost effectiveness
- Hired as consultants by various agencies/clients to provide expert recommendation, and help crack a psychological case which usually borders on crime
- Provide therapy and behavior modification for offenders on probation
- Assist attorneys in developing probing questions for a court case.

Criminal Psychologist Requirements – Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- **Education and Training:** To qualify as a criminal psychologist, you are required to obtain an undergraduate degree usually in psychology or in a related discipline. Furthermore, you are expected to go for a Master's and Doctorate degree studies in clinical or counseling psychology during which you participate in a year's internship and subsequently pass the State examination to obtain license that allows you practice as a criminal psychologist
- **Critical Thinking Skills:** The job of a criminal psychologist is an intellectually demanding task that requires you to possess the ability to thoughtfully process a situation
- **Research Skills:** As one of their key qualities, criminal psychologists are adept to conducting research and surveys to draw conclusions on the motive and actions of a criminal
- **Knowledge of the law/Social issues:** Criminal psychologists are knowledgeable in social and cultural matters; they have good understanding of case law, mental health law, and various other legal laws, knowledge of which aid them in effectively carrying out their duties.