

ASSESSMENT AND CLASSIFICATION OF ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

Mental Status Exam.

In addition to the Mental Status exam, I ask about:

Ethnicity

Health Issues

Medications

Family History

Current Social Status i.e., married divorced

Education

Occupation/ Work history

Psychologist Test Evaluations

Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory - III (MCMI-III)

16PF Questionnaire (Raymond Cattell)

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

Competency

Sanity and Insanity

Malingering

CRIMINAL PROFILING

DSM-IV:

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association

“A multiaxial system involves an assessment on several axes, each of which refers to a different domain of information that may help the clinician plan treatment and predict outcome.” DSM-IV

- Axis I Clinical Syndrome
- Axis II Personality Disorder and Mental Retardation
- Axis III Physical Disorder
- Axis IV Psycho-social stressors and Environmental Problems
- Axis V Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF)

“DSM-IV is a categorical classification that divides mental disorders into types based on criteria sets with defining features. The naming of categories is the traditional method of organizing and transmitting information in everyday life and has been the fundamental approach used in all systems of medical diagnosis. A categorical approach to classification works best when all members of a diagnostic class are homogeneous, when there are clear boundaries between classes, and when the different classes are mutually exclusive. Nonetheless, the limitations of the categorical classification system must be recognized.” DSM-IV

“The clinician using DSM-IV should consider that individuals sharing a diagnosis are likely to be heterogeneous even in regard to the defining features of the diagnosis and that boundary cases will be difficult to diagnose in any but a probabilistic fashion.” DSM-IV