

## BOOK REVIEW

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### Review of: *Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Issues and Controversies in Law, Law Enforcement and Corrections, Second Edition*

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**REFERENCE:** Arrigo BA, Shipley SL. Introduction to forensic psychology: issues and controversies in law, law enforcement and corrections, 2nd ed., Elsevier Academic Press, Burlington, MA, 2005, 571 pp.

As interest in forensic psychology has grown, it has expanded into a multitude of areas within the legal arena. The *Second Edition of Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Issues and Controversies in Law, Law Enforcement and Corrections* dissects all of these areas in which the presence of mental health professionals is now commonplace. Bruce Arrigo and Stacey Shipley effectively combine their experiences as a scholar and a forensic clinician to construct a book that appeals both to those in academia, as well as community-based clinicians practicing within forensic settings.

The division of *Introduction to Forensic Psychology* into four basic sections allows the reader to easily transition between different issues germane to one another. In addition, this organization allows one to efficiently locate specific subsections and issues that might be of interest. The first two sections address psychology's roles in the criminal and civil court systems, respectively. The third is a section on the interaction of psychology and law enforcement. The fourth section discusses psychology's roles in prison and correctional systems. Each of these sections consist of three chapters, which provide information from the contexts of adult, juvenile, and family or community issues. Within each of these 12 chapters, Arrigo and Shipley discuss innumerable issues in which law and psychology intersect. The authors do an excellent job of further dividing these issues into sections that introduce the issue, provide a literature review of it, offer policy implications, and suggest future research areas within the issue.

The second edition includes several new issues that bring *Introduction to Forensic Psychology* up to speed with both current topics and frequent practices of forensic clinicians. New topics include the psychology of terrorism, malingering, expert testimony, termina-

tion of parental rights, evaluating psychiatric disability claims, and crisis intervention in prisons. All of these topics include focuses on the ethical, multicultural, and diversity issues within each topic when relevant. Consequently, the book provides the breadth of forensic psychology few books offer.

Some readers might dislike the authors' editorial suggestions within some of the more controversial topic areas. While this approach is not common among such textbooks, it facilitates a more intellectually stimulating experience that promotes critical thinking of mental health professionals' duties and roles within the court, prison, and law enforcement domains. Further, it allows the authors to draw in the social and political contexts of these issues.

Another area potentially open to criticism is the lack of depth in discussing topics. However, the expansive breadth of topics comes at the price of deeply investigating each issue. Nonetheless, Arrigo and Shipley provide enough depth to understand the development and progression of a variety of forensic issues, such as the criteria for being found incompetent to stand trial, the establishment of children's court, and the right of an inmate to refuse treatment. Case law is included to cite important legal outcomes that shaped issues pertinent to forensic psychology without being overdone. The citations provide reference points for important cases should the reader wish to explore the legal issues further.

While the terms forensic psychology and forensic psychologist are frequently used, this book appeals to all mental health professionals who practice or aspire to practice in forensic roles. The organization and breadth of topics covered provides an insightful look into forensic psychology for high-level undergraduate students or lower level graduate students. It could also be a valuable reference for mental health professionals looking to expand their practice, academics seeking new areas for research, and individuals interested in critically thinking about policy issues.

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