

# Pacific Northwest Court Interpreter Conference Workshops

*Expert Witness Testimony - Forensic Psychological Evaluations*

*June 25, 2016 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM*

*Linda Grounds Ph.D.*

When Dr. Grounds tells people that she is a clinical and forensic psychologist they almost always ask if she is a criminal profiler who tries to identify a serial killer in order to help identify and arrest him. In reality, despite TV shows like Criminal Minds there are relatively few forensic psychologists who do this work. In actuality, “forensic” refers to the application of scientific principles and special knowledge and practices to assist in a legal process. In her forensic work she does psychological evaluations of individuals charged with serious crimes including bank robbery, embezzlement, drug offenses, and murder. She then typically writes a report that is provided to the defense attorney, prosecutor, judge, and sometimes others who are involved in judicial decision-making in the case. There are several reasons that forensic psychological evaluations are requested and Dr. Grounds will discuss those in her presentation.

She will talk about the specific components of forensic psychological evaluations (in both state and federal court) and how she and the interpreter work together. She will describe the process of the forensic psychological evaluation; tests used, and provide specialized information that would be useful to court interpreters who assist forensic psychologists, using examples liberally.

Finally, Dr. Grounds will discuss how she and the interpreter prepare for the evaluation, how we handle confusion that arises during either the interview or psychological testing portions of the evaluation, and the valuable information that she gains when working with interpreters.

Registration Notes: - This session is part of the 6-hour Expert Witness Testimony Workshop

- Oregon Certified and Registered Court Interpreters will earn 6 General Continuing Education Credits for completing the entire Expert Witness Testimony Workshop
- California and Idaho Court Interpreters will earn 6 CEUs for completing the entire Expert Witness Testimony Workshop
- ASL Interpreters will earn 0.65 RID CEUs, Professional Studies, Content Level: Some, Specialty Area: Legal, offered through the Language Door, an approved RID CMP and ACET sponsor
- Washington Credits are pending approval