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Anti-Bullying Intervention and Its Relevance to Forensic Testimony

Joel Harris, Chrisann Schiro-Geist, Sarah Cozort

Abstract: Kids On the Block (KOB) is a program designed to increase knowledge and improve attitudes toward students with disabilities in schools. Previously, research has not examined KOB's effects of bullying on students. The present study examined the program's effectiveness at increasing knowledge and prosocial attitudes toward bullying by examining trends in student knowledge and attitudes prior to and after viewing the intervention. Fourth and fifth grade students completed measures of bullying knowledge, explicit attitudes toward bullying, and implicit attitudes toward bullying across three time points. Students who viewed the KOB show demonstrated small but statistically significant increases in knowledge, as well as explicit prosocial attitudes toward bullying, after viewing the intervention. Schools may wish to incorporate the KOB intervention as an efficient way to increase student knowledge and promote prosocial explicit attitudes about bullying. The article also notes the potential for insight — relevant to forensic testimony in vocational rehabilitation — to be garnered from interrogation of the relationship between conflict in childhood, especially resulting in trauma sustained in the educational environment, and conflict in the workplace later in life.

Household Chores Damages Assessment

Ronald Smolarski

Abstract: Accurate and practical assessment of the monetary damages associated with disability, in terms of household chores, is a concern for vocational experts, rehabilitation counselors, forensic economists, life care planners, psychologists, accountants, and finance professionals. Such assessment requires consideration of pre- and post-injury tasks and capacities, and estimation of their financial value, which is less obvious in the case of household chores than with work-related duties or tasks. The methodology presented here results in a realistic dollar estimation of damages that offers a thorough consideration of the specific offset factors that are involved and is more practical than more complicated, expensive, and labor-intensive methods that too often discourage professionals from considering household chores at all.

Vocational Expert Qualifications: Ethical, Practical, and Professional Considerations

Scott T. Stipe

Abstract: This article documents that while the vast majority of Vocational Experts (VEs) have many years of Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling (VRC) experience, possess national certifications relating to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), and have completed graduate level degrees in Rehabilitation Counseling (or closely related fields), a small percentage of those who claim expertise are retained by attorneys, despite lacking all necessary qualifications. With review of historical foundations of Vocational Rehabilitation and Vocational Forensics, qualifications published by government

agencies (and endorsed by professional associations), requirements of national credentials possessed by most VEs, and published surveys of VEs, this article will document that individuals performing vocational forensics who lack what the majority of VEs possess can be considered outliers. Individuals purporting expertise (in any field), who do not meet widely accepted minimum requirements in the subject field, may have their testimony as an expert rejected by the trier of fact. If accepted, the opinion of the atypically qualified VE may be given less weight than an expert with typical credentials. Professional and ethical considerations, regarding those with atypical qualifications, for practicing VEs, professional associations, attorneys, agencies, and other consumers are discussed.

**Choosing a Damages Expert: Current Literature and Considerations
Pertaining to Life Care Planning and Vocational Rehabilitation**

Dan Thompson

Abstract: This paper will address the importance of choosing the right damages expert to address the Life Care Planning (LCP) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) needs of a claimant, and it will briefly address relevant history of LCP and VR. Further, it will explicate the importance credentialization plays in the court's determination of whether testimony by an expert witness is admissible, depending on the jurisdictional variation of Daubert and Frye standards, as well as the process through which the veracity of expert opinions will be tested by comparison to current peer-reviewed information regarding reasonable projection of needs. Case studies will be used to illustrate how to understand and use appropriate tactics in defense, which consider, specifically, the area of Life Care Planning.