

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Peer Review of Expert Testimony

Approved by the Board, December 2019
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“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

APA Position:

Peer review of psychiatric expert testimony is a promising mechanism for improving the quality of information that psychiatrists present to the legal system. Preliminary experience suggests that peer review can be of considerable value when it focuses on educating psychiatrists, on a voluntary basis, about potential problems with their testimony. The American Psychiatric Association encourages innovative development of models of peer review of psychiatric expert testimony by APA district branches, departments of psychiatry, and other groups. The APA's resource document on peer review of psychiatric expert testimony may be of assistance to groups that are interested in developing peer review mechanisms. Experience with different approaches should be evaluated systematically to facilitate the development of optimal models for peer review.