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**SOME PROBLEMS INHERENT IN NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING**

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*Neuropsychological tests are used to determine whether an individual has brain damage (brain dysfunction) and if so, the extent and cause of that brain damage. Neuropsychological tests use samples of the individual's behavior (test performance) to make inferences about brain functioning. In order for neuropsychological testing to be of use, the practitioner must be qualified, must use standardized tests with official norms, must be able to address basic statistical issues regarding testing, and must be able to address threats to test validity, including inappropriate norms, limited English proficiency on the part of the patient, and possible malingering.*

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE WHEELS FALL OFF?  
ELDER ABUSE COMPLAINTS AND LEGAL OUTCOMES  
IN RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES IN CANADA**

**Brian J. Bigelow, Ph.D.**

*The dynamics of both founded and unfounded complaints of residential elderly abuse were estimated by examining 21 labor appeal cases of residential workers (e.g., R.N.A.s) from 1987-1998. Content analysis of these cases resulted in 13 content categories. Of the 10 upheld cases, the 4 most substantive categories were: 1) assault/physical abuse, 3) chronically problematic worker, 2) no remorse, unique resident, and 4) new worker on the scene. The 4 more substantive categories which described the dynamics of the 11 acquitted/reduced cases were: 1) exemplary worker, 2) credibility of complaint, 3) new worker on the scene, and 4) unique resident. Although much more data are required to establish suitable reliability and validity of the categories, these preliminary findings suggest that there may be a profile of an at-risk residential worker. Histories of chronic physical and verbal abuse and of verbal and written warnings about attitude and conduct characterized a higher risk worker. Alternatively, complaints which arose from a new worker on the scene were more likely to be reduced or dismissed when the complaint lacked credibility, whether or not the accused had an exemplary history or when the resident was uniquely difficult.*