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**ASSESSMENT OF COMORBID COGNITIVE DISORDERS
IN TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS CASES: CONCEPTUAL
FORMULATION AND TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**David F. Bogacki, Ph.D., ABPP, Keith D. McGoldrick, M.A.
and Rama Rao Gogineni, M.D.**

This article provides a working definition of comorbid cognitive disorders (CCD) and how the dysfunction caused by mental defect plays a significant role in outcomes for parents involved in termination of parental rights litigation. Following the presentation of a conceptual model of CCD, the article discusses the foundation of CCD, the prevalence of CCD in this type of litigation, and the definition and effects of learning disabilities on parenting. Recommendations for the assessment and treatment of comorbid cognitive disorders for forensic psychologists and others working with troubled parents are presented.

**ABORIGINAL OFFENDERS' PERSPECTIVES
ON CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS IN CANADIAN PRISONS**

Teresa Howell, Ph.D.

Forty Aboriginal male inmates were given an opportunity to voice their opinions concerning correctional programming, effective support persons and views of decreasing recidivism. The results of the study supported prior findings indicating that spirituality and culture are fundamental components of effective treatment programs for Aboriginal offenders. Over half (52%) of the participants considered Aboriginal programs effective because of their cultural and spiritual components. An encouraging discovery was that these participants reported that Aboriginal programs are moderately (28%) to highly (40%) likely to decrease their recidivism, a finding not previously investigated. With respect to effective support persons, participants most often solicit assistance from Aboriginal people when experiencing personal and institutional problems and consider Aboriginal people to be the most supportive people to them. Although results indicated that it is necessary for the Correctional Services of Canada to be culturally sensitive in accommodating Aboriginal offenders in correctional programming, further research is required to investigate the actual, as opposed to perceived, effectiveness of Aboriginal programs, as well as to assist in designing and implementing future programs and activities that are culturally appropriate.

ANTICIPATED STEREOTYPES OF FEMALE CONVICTED FELONS

Erin Buchanan, Psy.D. and Margaret Ann Keaton, Psy.D.

The current study surveyed incarcerated women and college students, and examined the stereotypes and expected discrimination of female convicted felons. The results indicate that neither female convicted felons nor students strongly believe that female felons will face stigma or discrimination in most areas upon release. The female felons indicated they believed that they would encounter discrimination when trying to find employment, and students believed that “most people” view female felons as lazy. Thus, it appears that these are more than mere stereotypes. Many of the responses indicated that incarcerated women and college students significantly differed from one another regarding the extent to which they believe convicted female felons would face stereotyping or discrimination. Incarcerated women seemed more concerned about stigma or discrimination than college students regarding being denied employment and being perceived as untrustworthy. Students were significantly more convinced than offenders that a convicted female felon would encounter discrimination or stigma in the following areas: making new friends, building a new romantic relationship, and being seen as a danger to children, a thief, “crazy,” violent, lazy, unreliable, and a bad influence on others. These results may be helpful in educating both offenders and the community about stereotypes versus reality. Future research is needed to determine if these results are generalizable.