

Defense Base Act Psychological Evaluations: Things to Consider

When performing an evaluation on a foreign contractor for a DBA claim, there are a number of issues that need to be addressed by the evaluator, and often are overlooked. These are some of them.

- 1) Consideration explicitly stated in the evaluation report that cultural issues are being looked at. Most medical/mental health organizations require this.
- 2) If the evaluation is done either by telehealth or in person in a foreign country, have all licensing laws been investigated? These evaluations may require a license or other certification from the country in question before they can be performed.
- 3) Are tests used published? If so, are they normed in the country in question/
- 4) Are any tests used properly translated? This would require a translation and a back-translation. Simply having an interpreter translate test items in an interview is not appropriate.
- 5) Did the evaluation take into account the validity of tests used?

In fact, in many countries from which foreign contractors for the US were hired, there are limited valid test instruments available. Using invalid ones can result in a rejection of the evaluation and a waste of money. If there happens to be a law requiring a license to perform the evaluation and this was not obtained by the evaluator, the report can also be found to have been illegally performed.

There are methods of coping with the above issues that avoid serious problems. We are happy to discuss these issues if interested.