

American Academy of Forensic Psychology (AAFP) Policy on Organization
Position and Education Papers (PEP)

Purpose

The American Academy of Forensic Psychology (AAFP) strives to identify contemporary issues within the field of forensic psychology that warrant exposition or clarification. AAFP values the importance of taking positions and providing broad-based guidelines and educational statements that are both evidenced-based and established with robust consensus within our Academy. Forensic psychology is a diverse and ever-evolving specialty that intersects with an array of legal and policy related venues. Board certified forensic psychologists are often called upon to render opinions that are anchored to standards of accountability that are based upon sufficient facts or data and are generally accepted within our scientific community. This policy outlines the elements and processes for the development and dissemination of position and education papers published by AAFP.

Member Representation and Roles

All Position or Educational Papers from AAFP will include oversight and/or participation from the following:

1. AAFP Board of Directors
 - a) Provides governance oversight to the Position-Education Paper (PEP) Steering Committee,
 - b) Assigns Fellows to PEP Steering Committee,
 - c) Reviews semi-annual reports from PEP Steering Committee and provides feedback and guidance as needed,
 - d) Provides consultative support to the PEP Steering Committee or PEP Drafting Committee, if requested or required,
 - e) Reviews all provisionally approved draft papers forwarded from the PEP Steering Committee,
 - f) Approves with a majority vote to send the provisionally approved draft papers to AAFP Fellows for review,
 - g) Presents provisionally approved draft papers to AAFP Fellows for review and feedback,
 - h) Upon conclusion of membership review of a provisionally approved draft, oversees AAFP Fellows' vote for ratification, and
 - i) Oversees the publication/posting of the Position-Education Papers.
2. AAFP Position/Education Paper (PEP) Steering Committee
 - a) PEP Steering Committee consists of between 3-7 Fellows the AAFP Board of Directors determine have varied forensic experience and are prominent within the field of forensic psychology,
 - b) Reviews proposed position or education papers for AAFP,
 - c) Identifies topics of consideration for PEPs,

- d) Appoints or solicits nominations for AAFP Fellows to serve on PEP Drafting Committees,
 - e) Reviews all proposed PEP drafts, and has the authority, by majority vote, to reject, provide recommendations for revision, or to provide provisional approval to all PEP drafts, and
 - f) Forwards provisionally approved PEP drafts to the AAFP Board for its review and consideration.
3. Position/Education Paper (PEP) Drafting Committee
- a) Serve as the primary authors for AAFP PEPs,
 - b) May solicit input from experts within or outside AAFP in the development of a PEP,
 - c) May not publicly present or publish any working PEP documents without the authorization of the PEP Steering Committee and AAFP Board of Directors,
 - d) The PEP Drafting Committee, by majority vote, present the PEP draft to the PEP Steering Committee,
 - e) After a final draft is approved by the PEP Steering Committee and AAFP Board, seeks commentary and feedback from AAFP Fellows through a AAFP listserv notification and link to the PEP draft,
 - f) Considers and perhaps adopts any suggested modifications/revisions offered by AAFP Fellows, and
 - g) Submits any revised version of the PEP to the PEP Steering Committee for review/approval.
4. AAFP Fellows
- a) Via the listserv, proposed Position/Education Papers (PEPs) will be made available for review and commentary to all AAFP Fellows in good standing for four weeks,
 - b) Once a final PEP is approved by the AAFP Board, it will make the final PEP available for approval by AAFP Fellows for four weeks via a web-based system to be authorized by the AAFP Board, and
 - c) For any PEP to be adopted/ratified it must be approved by 70% of the voting AAFP Fellows.

Conflicts of Interest

1. With rare exceptions, members of the AAFP Board of Directors and PEP Steering Committee cannot serve on a PEP Drafting Committee.
2. A Board or Steering Committee member who requests to serve on a Drafting Committee can only do so with a majority vote approval from the Board. The Board or Steering Committee member requesting to participate on a Drafting Committee may not vote to approve their participation on a Drafting Committee, nor can they vote at any point in the review and approval process of the PEP document.
3. All Board, Steering Committee, and/or Drafting Committee members should refrain from participation in the PEP process any time a conflict of interest is identified.