

# Dr. Matthew Mendel

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Forensic Psychology

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## SUMMARY

Dr. Matthew Mendel is a clinical psychologist and expert witness specializing in childhood trauma-related forensic cases. He is the author of *The Male Survivor: Impact of Sexual Abuse* (Sage Publications, 1995). He has been retained in over 270 forensic cases in 27 states and in federal jurisdiction. Most of his forensic work is in death penalty cases in which it is known or suspected that the defendant was sexually abused or otherwise traumatized during his childhood. Dr. Mendel evaluates these defendants, with a focus on their childhood traumas, and then tells their story, helping those involved in the disposition of the case understand the individual accused of the crime. Dr. Mendel is a pioneer in “life-history” based forensic evaluations, as opposed to more traditional evaluations in the forensic field, which rely heavily upon psychological testing.

## TESTIMONY IN COURT

1. 2023 Symonds v. Michigan, Case No. 94-3085
2. 2023 Arizona v. Woodman, CR2020-104765
3. 2022 Georgia v. Ricky Allen Dubose Case Number: CC-2010-76
4. 2021 Brennan v. State of Florida Case Number: 95-911CF
5. 2020 Lisle v. Nevada 2:03-cv-01006-MMD-DJA
6. 2020 Mississippi v. Godbolt 2018-064-LS
7. 2019 Springs v. Arkansas 5:13-CV-05
8. 2019 Arizona v. Noonkester CR 2011-138281-001
9. 2018 Gay v. Arkansas CR# 15-00210
10. 2018 Texas v. Delacruz Cause No. B-14-1134-SA
11. 2018 Williams v. Alabama 12-14937
12. 2018 United States v. Cramer & Fackrell: 1:16-CR-00026
13. 2017 Texas v. Hernandez, 1379618D
14. 2017 North Carolina v. Long 15CRS50302
15. 2017 Roberts v. Arkansas CR 99.70
16. 2016 Arizona v. Coleman CR 2012-008340
17. 2016 Walker v. Mississippi 1:97-cv-00029-KS
18. 2015 Wyoming v. Guajardo CR2015-639 & CR2015-1226
19. 2014 Texas v. Lewis Cause Nos 1372134 & 1372135
20. 2014 North Carolina v. Richardson 10 CRS 3981-83; 54369; 54426; 11 CRS 3021-22

21. 2014 Texas v. Balderas Cause Nos 1050630 & 1064857
  22. 2013 Arizona v. Alegria CR20092397
  23. 2013 Texas v. Jenkins CR10-1063
  24. 2013 Texas v. Robertson CR10-4337
  25. 2011 North Carolina v. Thomas 06CRS6250-67
  26. 2011 Texas v. Mullis CR08-0333
  27. 2010 North Carolina v. Cooper 07CR82072
  28. 2008 North Carolina v. Wilson 07CRS11060
  29. 2008 North Carolina v. Chance 06CRS74131
  30. 2007 United States Air Force Court-Martial against Airman Darrin E. Jones, Jr.
  31. 2005 California v. Avila 02CF1862
  32. 1999 White v. North Carolina 89CRS31887, 41217-18, 56389, 56391
  33. 1997 North Carolina v. Williams 97CRS8000-01, 8388, 17582-84, 17587-88, 17590-91, 88750
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## EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (1992) University of Michigan**  
Dissertation: The Impact of Sexual Abuse Upon Males
- **M.A. in Clinical Psychology (1989) University of Michigan**  
Masters Thesis: The Assessment of Capacity for Emotional Investment in Relationships and Moral Standards Using TAT and Interview Data
- **A.B. Cum Laude (1984) Princeton University**  
Thesis: The Appeal of Cults

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **MATTHEW MENDEL, PHD, P.C.** **FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**

**RALEIGH, NC**  
**1997 — CURRENT**

Evaluation of men in civil and criminal cases. Primary focus of evaluations is the impact of childhood trauma, particularly sexual abuse, upon later functioning. Evaluation of defendants in capital cases regarding potential mitigating factors. Evaluations in capital cases conducted in the following states: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Wyoming; as well as in Federal jurisdiction.

### **MENDEL PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES** **PSYCHOLOGIST AND BUSINESS OWNER**

**RALEIGH, NC**  
**2001 — CURRENT**

Psychological assessment and therapy. Clinical work with children, families, and adults. Individual, family and group psychotherapy. Psycho-educational assessments including

evaluations of intellectual functioning, academic achievement, Learning Disabilities, and Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder. Children's social skills groups. Dialectical-Behavioral group skills training. Specialties include work with children of divorce, anxiety disorders, childhood depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder, treatment of children and adolescents with Aspergers Disorder or High-Functioning Autism, and work with adult men with histories of childhood sexual abuse.

**SILBER PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES, P.A.**  
**PSYCHOLOGIST**

**RALEIGH, NC**  
**1995 – 2001**

Psychological assessment and therapy. Clinical work with children, families, and adults. Group therapy with children and adolescents.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, P.C.**  
**ASSOCIATE CLINICAL MANAGER (1994)**

**LANSING, MI**  
**1994**

Clinical management of psychologists and social workers through assignment of psychotherapy cases, review of treatment, monitoring of utilization of services, and consultation.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, P.C.,**  
**PSYCHOLOGIST**

**LANSING, MI**  
**1992 -1995**

Psychological assessments and short-term psychotherapy in outpatient clinic. Clinical work includes individual adult psychotherapy, parent guidance, child therapy, and family therapy. Area of specialization is child and family psychotherapy.

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

**EAST LANSING, MI**  
**1992 – 1994**

Clinical supervision of child-track students in Clinical Psychology doctoral program. Supervision of assessment and treatment of child and family cases in practicum placement.

**SADYE HARWICK POWER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES UNDER STRESS,**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERN AND FELLOW**

**ANN ARBOR, MI**  
**1990 – 1991**

Clinical fellowship focusing upon families in which the parents have divorced or a parent has died. Clinical intervention consisting primarily of short-term work with children and families aimed at helping them to cope with and to work through the trauma. Evaluation and treatment, including individual child work, parent guidance, family treatment, group work with children, and parental support groups. Educational seminar on loss, divorce, and bereavement.

**ARBOR HOSPICE-PERSONALIZED NURSING SERVICE**  
**PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTANT**

**ANN ARBOR, MI**  
**1990 – 1991**

In-home psychological evaluation and treatment of terminally ill patients and their families. Focus on children's adjustment to parental illness and death.

**FAMILY ASSESSMENT CLINIC, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTANT**

**ANN ARBOR, MI  
1990 – 1991**

Psychological testing of parents and children referred for evaluation following allegations of child abuse or neglect. Participation in interdisciplinary consultation team to determine placement of children.

**TOUCHSTONE, WASHTENAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH  
MEN'S GROUP FACILITATOR**

**ANN ARBOR, MI  
1990**

Facilitation of self-help group for male survivors of sexual child abuse.

**ARBOR HOSPICE  
BEREAVEMENT GROUP FACILITATOR**

**ANN ARBOR, MI  
1990**

Leader of groups for children who have lost a parent. Co-leading of groups for elementary school-age children. Groups aimed at helping children express feelings related to the loss and develop effective strategies for dealing with the trauma. Groups led under the auspices of Arbor Hospice and through the University Center for the Child and the Family.

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC  
PSYCHOLOGY INTERN**

**ANN ARBOR, MI  
1989 – 1990**

Evaluation and treatment of adult outpatients in individual psychoanalytic psychotherapy. Clientele ranging from high-functioning neurotics to people with severe personality disorders. Individual and group supervision, weekly case and consultation conferences, and educational seminar on psychoanalytic technique. Opportunity for long-term work with individual adults provided through post internship, in which interns continue treatment of clients after completion of internship.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAINING PROGRAM ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, UNIVERSITY OF  
MICHIGAN  
CHILD ABUSE FELLOW**

**ANN ARBOR, MI  
1988 – 1989**

Interdisciplinary program bringing together professionals and students from the fields of Psychology, Psychiatry, Social Work, Social Services, Pediatrics and Law, with a common interest in the area of child maltreatment. Weekly meetings and group projects. Participation in the Child Advocacy Fellowship, including co-authorship of a proposal for establishing a statewide child advocacy office and setting standards for representing a child.

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CENTER FOR THE CHILD AND THE FAMILY  
PSYCHOLOGY INTERN**

**ANN ARBOR, MI  
1988 – 1989**

Internship affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect. Clinical activities under the auspices of the University Center for the Child and the Family. Family-systems and psychoanalytically informed treatment in various modalities, including individual treatment of children and adolescents, family therapy, and couples therapy. Focus upon individuals and families who have experienced abuse or neglect. Psychological assessment and testing also provided. Individual and group supervision, weekly case and consultation conferences, and educational seminar on child and family treatment.

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**DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HOSPITALS  
PSYCHOLOGY INTERN**

**ANN ARBOR, MI  
1987 – 1988**

Provide therapy to young children both in milieu setting and on an outpatient basis. Psychoanalytically oriented play therapy with children, parent guidance work, conjoint therapy with children and parents, psychological assessment and testing, and work with members of a interdisciplinary team. Two weekly team meetings, individual supervision in both therapy and assessment, and educational seminars on treatment related issues.

**FAMILY STYLES PROJECT, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
GROUP FACILITATOR FOR CHILDREN OF DIVORCE**

**ANN ARBOR, MI  
1987 – 1989**

Lead weekly groups for children of divorce using displacement and interpretative techniques. Conduct groups for early elementary school-age children (ages 6-8), junior high school students (ages 12-14), and high school students (ages 14-16) in the public schools. Development of interventions for use with these groups. Participation in weekly project meetings. Facilitation of educational meetings with parents.

**DEVEREUX FOUNDATION, RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED  
ADOLESCENTS  
TEACHER-COUNSELOR**

**SANTA BARBARA, CA  
1985 – 1986**

Facilitation of activities for emotionally disturbed adolescents. Development and administration of behavioral modification program. Participation in interdisciplinary team planning meetings.

**EDEN INSTITUTE FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN  
CAREWORKER**

**PRINCETON, NJ  
1981 – 1982**

One-to-one careworker for eight-year-old autistic boy in a behaviorally oriented institute.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Mendel, M. (submitted for publication). Male survivors of childhood sexual abuse. In Conte, J. (Ed.) Handbook of trauma and abuse.
- Mendel, M. (2004). Kidstuff: Working your way to a child-friendly divorce. In Families of transition: A guide to surviving divorce. Raleigh, NC: Rosen Divorce
- Morrell, B., Mendel, M.P., & Fischer, L. (2001). Object relations disturbances in sexually abused males. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 16N9.
- Mendel, M.P. (1999) Book Review: William N. Friedrich's Psychotherapy with sexually abused boys: An integrated approach. Journal of Interpersonal Violence.
- Mendel, M.P. (1995). The male survivor. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.
- Brodfeld, P., Kalter, N., Dunning, S., Chasin, J., Drasin, R., Lohnes, K., Rowan, J., Lakin, M., Mendel, M.P., & Timony, M. (1994). The parentally bereaved child: A leader's guide to time-limited developmental facilitation groups for elementary school-age children. Ann Arbor, MI: Arbor Hospice and Neil Kalter, Ph.D.

- Mendel, M.P. (1993). Issues of particular salience to male survivors of childhood sexual abuse. *Family Violence and Sexual Assault Bulletin*, 9, 23-27.
- Mendel, M.P. (1993). Parental fighting and children's coping. In N. Kalter (Ed.), *Time-limited developmental facilitation groups for children of divorce: Junior high school manual*. Ann Arbor, MI: Neil Kalter & Associates.
- Leigh, J., Westen, D., Barends, A., Mendel, M.J., & Byers, S. (1992). The assessment of complexity of representations of people using TAT and interview data. *Journal of Personality*, 60, 809-837.
- Mendel, M.P. (1992). The impact of sexual abuse upon males. Doctoral dissertation. Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilms International. Read, A.E., Pratt, M.E., Mendel, M.J., Kleis-Miller, M., Churchill, S. R., & Duquette, D.N. (1990). Proposal for legislation establishing a statewide child advocacy office and setting standards for representing the child. In D. Duquette (Ed.), *Advocating for the child in protection proceedings*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.
- Mendel, M.J. (1988). Introduction to the group and drawing of family pictures. In N. Kalter (Ed.), *Timelimited developmental facilitation groups for children of divorce: Early elementary school manual*. Ann Arbor, MI: Neil Kalter & Associates.
- Anonymous peer review of journal articles on sexual abuse

## PRESENTATIONS

- June 2018: Sexual Trauma as Capital Mitigation, Presentation at 16th Annual **Arizona Public Defenders Association** Statewide Conference, Tempe, AZ
- April 2018: Life-history based forensic evaluations in death penalty cases, presentation at **American College of Forensic Psychology** 34th Annual Symposium, San Diego, CA
- October 2016: Childhood History in Death Penalty Cases, presentation at **Arkansas Law Review** Annual Symposium, Fayetteville, AR
- April 2015: Childhood Trauma as Mitigation, presentation at **American College of Forensic Psychology** 31st Annual Symposium, San Diego, CA
- January 2014 Childhood Trauma as Mitigation, presentation at "Capital Defense College," Raleigh, NC
- April 2011: **University of Arkansas Law School**, Capital Punishment Course "Expert Witnesses and Mitigation"
- January 2011: **Death Penalty Seminar, NC Advocates of Justice** Invited presentation "Sexual Abuse and Trauma: Aftershocks and Consequences"
- February 2005: The Impact of Sexual Abuse Upon Males. Invited presentation as part of panel entitled Sexual Abuse of our Clients when they were Young, **California Attorneys for Criminal Justice/ California Public Defenders Association** Capital Case Defense Seminar, Executing Justice Not People
- August 2004: Working with Male Victims. Presented at **Workshop for Sexual Assault Prevention Trainers**, Raleigh, NC
- April 2004: College Students with ADHD. Presented at **Annual Timothy Burnett Conference on Learning Disabilities**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- September 2003: Issues of Particular Salience to Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse. Presented at Conference of the **North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault**, Durham, NC

- April 2001: Creative Approaches to Children & Families of Divorce, presented at Annual Conference of the **North Carolina Psychological Association**
- March 2001: Helping Children Cope with Divorce, presented at **White Memorial Church**, Raleigh, NC
- Dec. 1998: Stresses on Families with ADHD children, presented at **CHADD meeting**, Raleigh, NC
- Apr. 1998: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, presented at **White Plains Methodist Church** Parents' Meeting, Cary, NC
- Oct. 1997 Clinical Work with Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, presented at **Psychiatric Solutions, Inc.**, Raleigh, NC
- May 1997: Clinical Work with Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, presented at Annual Conference of the **North Carolina Psychological Association**
- Apr. 1997: The Effects of Trauma, presented at **Conference on Mental Retardation, Mental Illness, and the Death Penalty**, North Carolina Central University School of Law, Durham, NC
- Nov. 1996: Clinical Work with Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, presented at **National Association of Social Workers Meeting**, Raleigh, NC
- May 1996: Masculinity and Victimization, presented at **Durham & Orange County Men's Center**, Durham, NC
- March 1996: Masculinity and Victimization, presented at **Wake County Men's Center**, Raleigh, NC
- Aug. 1994: Relationship Between Child Sexual-Abuse Characteristics and Adult Psychosocial Functioning, presented at **Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association**, Los Angeles, CA.
- Nov. 1992: The Use of Psychological Assessments and Treatment Plans, presented at **Conference on Attorney Representation in Child Protection Proceedings**, East Lansing, MI
- Oct. 1992: Understanding the Experience of Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse, presented at **Michigan Statewide Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect**: Ann Arbor, MI.
- Aug. 1992: Issues of Particular Salience to Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, presented at **Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association** Washington, D.C.
- 1990: Guest Lectures on child sexual abuse. Project Outreach, Psychology 201 (November), University of Michigan. Marriage and the Family, Psychology 385 (June), University of Michigan

## RESEARCH

### DISSERTATION: THE IMPACT OF SEXUAL ABUSE UPON MALES

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, 1990 – 1992

**Chair: Eric Bermann, Ph.D.**

Assessment of the long-term effects of sexual abuse upon male survivors. Male survivors of sexual abuse complete questionnaires regarding their abuse experiences and current functioning. Study explores issues of particular salience to male survivors.

Major aim of study is to facilitate more effective intervention with boy victims and

adult male survivors of sexual abuse.

**SADYE HARWICK POWER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES UNDER STRESS**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, 1990 – 1991**

**Co-Chairs: Eric Bermann, Ph.D. & Neil Kalter, Ph.D.**

Development of interventions for use in groups with children who have had a parent die. Co-authorship of manual for group intervention with bereaved children.

**ATTACHMENT THROUGH THE LIFE-SPAN PRELIM (PROGRAM OF ADVANCED STUDY)**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, 1988 – 1989**

**Chair: Drew Westen, Ph.D.**

Exploration of the various manifestations of the attachment paradigm beyond the domain of infancy. Examination of attachment in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

**MASTER'S THESIS: THE ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY FOR EMOTIONAL INVESTMENT IN RELATIONSHIPS AND MORAL STANDARDS USING TAT AND INTERVIEW DATA**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, 1987 – 1989**

**Chair: Drew Westen, Ph.D.**

Development of scales for assessing various aspects of object relations. Masters' Thesis focusing on the validation of a scale for the assessment of capacity for emotional investment in relationships and in moral standards.

**FAMILY STYLES PROJECT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN 1987 – 1989**

**Chair: Neil Kalter, Ph.D.**

Development of interventions for use in groups for children of divorce. Participation in the construction of manuals for Early Elementary and Junior High School groups. Authorship of a chapter in each manual.

**SENIOR THESIS: THE APPEAL OF CULTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY 1984**

**Advisor: Susan Darley, Ph.D.** Awarded Senior Thesis Prize

**JUNIOR PAPER: THE HYPNAGOGIC STATE: A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY 1983**

**Advisor: Julian Jaynes, Ph.D.**

## TEACHING

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT  
PROJECT OUTREACH, PSYCHOLOGY 201, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, PROFESSOR: JERRY MILLER, PH.D. 1988 - 1990

Instructor for Mental Illness section of undergraduate lab course in Psychology Department. Arrangement and facilitation of student work at inpatient and outpatient mental health settings; coordination of guest lecture series; lectures on the mental health system and its history; training of undergraduates who participate in and lead visits to the various mental health settings; and evaluation of students' performance.

# PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Psychological Association (APA)
- APA Division 41, American Psychology-Law Society
- North Carolina Psychological Association (NCPA)
- NCPA Division of Professional Practice
- National Register of Health Service Psychologists