

Brief descriptions of presentation at:
Pedophilia, Minor-Attracted Persons, and the DSM: Issues and Controversies
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The Forensic Implications of the DSM-V's Pedohebephilia

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The influence of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) in the mental health field is clearly significant. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) is considered the “Bible” for professionals making psychiatric diagnoses. The DSM, however intended or unintended, has influenced the legal and social policy arenas by identifying and outlining behaviors and thoughts which are labeled “disordered.” The DSM V has proposed several diagnostic changes in the subject area of the paraphilic disorders. For example the diagnosis of Pedophilia has been revised to Pedohebephilia.

In this presentation the question of whether Pedohebephilia should be considered as a psychiatric disorder will be discussed. The theoretical foundation and scientific evidence for the inclusion of Pedohebephilia comes from abnormal and persistent sexual interests, behavioral patterns, self-reported sexual fantasy and laboratory tests. This evidence will be examined outlining the limitations and possible errors in research.

The DSM V proposed revisions and science of Pedohebephilia will then be applied to the field of forensic psychiatry. The forensic implications of creating this modified paraphilic disorder will be reviewed with respect to recent sexual predator legislation, criminal responsibility, child custody evaluations, disability eligibility and dangerousness in the workplace.

In conclusion, the response of forensic psychiatrists to the addition of new paraphilic disorders, including Pedohebephilia will be presented. Two recent votes at the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law conference (October 2010) outline important professional considerations related to the inclusion of Pedohebephilia in the DSM.

References

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- Zander TK: Adult sexual attraction to early-stage adolescents: phalloscopy doesn't equal pathology. *Arch Sex Behav* 38:329-30, 2009.