## Strategies for Defending Higher-Level and More Complex Cases

Practical Considerations 20 August 2025



## Roadmap

Who I am

Relationships are Key

**Use Your Resources** 

Don't be Afraid to Try



### Who I am



- 2010 Graduate of Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University
- Wanted to be a prosecutor or an insurance defense lawyer
- Now practices criminal and juvenile defense and plaintiff's personal injury



## Relationships are Key



# Absent your client, who is the most important person in delinquency court?

- Clerk?
- Judge?
- Juvenile Court Counselor?
- Parent?
- Prosecutor?





## Find out what makes them tick

- This is people work – not the stuff you learned in law school
- Do your job and earn their trust



- Clerk
  - Be on time, be prepared, do paperwork if you can.
- Judge
  - Be knowledgeable and trustworthy use your resources!
- Juvenile Court Counselor
  - Why do they do what they do?
- Prosecutor
  - Make sure they know you are prepared and they'll never outwork you.
- Parents
  - Believe in their children, even when they don't.

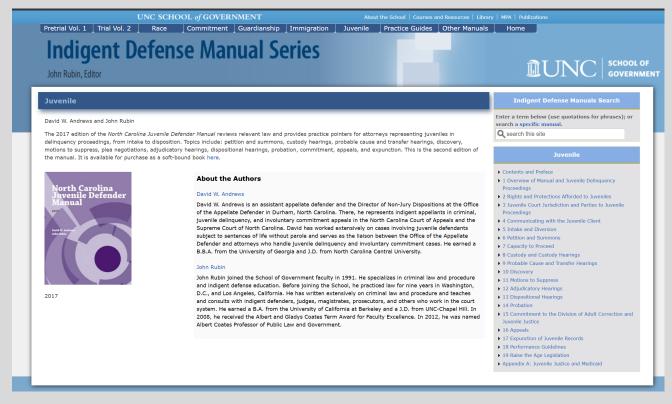


## Use Your Resources



### Juvenile Defender Manual

• <a href="https://defendermanuals.sog.unc.edu/defender-manual/7">https://defendermanuals.sog.unc.edu/defender-manual/7</a>





### Office of the Juvenile Defender

www.ncjuveniledefender.org



**DEFENDERS PORTAL** 

HOME

WHO WE AR

MATERIALS FOR DEFENDERS

TRAINING CALENDAR

BLOG

JFDM ROSTER More

#### TRAINING MATERIAL - LISTED BY SUBJECT

#### Adolescent Brain Development

- Moving Forward: Advanced Concepts in Adolescent Brain Development, by Cindy Cottle, Ph.D., from 2018 Advocating for Youth Charged with First Degree Murder, March 2018
- Adolescent Brain Development: The Science, by Cindy Cottle, Ph.D., from 2012 Juvenile Defender Conference, August 2012
- Assessments 101, by Katrina Kuzyszyn-Jones, from 2012 Juvenile Defender Conference, August 2012
- Developmental Framework, by Simmie Baer, from 2011 Annual Juvenile Defender Conference
- Developmental Framework for Miranda Issues, by Simmie Baer, from 2011 Annual Juvenile Defender Conference

#### Capacity

- Evaluating the Case for Capacity/Motion to Suppress, by Valerie Pearce
- Practical Tips for Attorney on Using Capacity, by

  Valoria Pages from 2007 Appeal Impagila Defende

#### Adolescents

 Supreme Court Jurisprudence on Adolescence, by Jessica Feierman, from 2012 Juvenile Defender Conference, August 2012

#### Collateral Consequences

- The Collateral Consequences of Adjudication, by Lisa Campbell, from 2011 Annual Juvenile Defender
  Conference
- The Collateral Consequences of Adjudication (Slides), by Lisa Campbell, from 2011 Annual Juvenile Defender Conference
- Juvenile Adjudications, Selected Collateral Consequences and Expungement, by Brandi Clemmons, from 2010 Juvenile Defender Conference, August 2010
- SB 920 SB 984 Fact Sheet: How My Juvenile Record May Affect Me if I Am Charged as an Adult, by Brandi Clemmons, from 2010 Juvenile Defender Conference, August 2010



You are here: Home / Browse All Experts

## www.forensicresources.org

#### **Browse All Experts**

This database includes **state and defense experts** searchable by name or area of expertise. The list was compiled based upon the experts' work in prior cases or requests to be added, and is not based on any assessment of whether an expert is qualifled or is the appropriate expert for a specific case. If you are searching for an expert to retain you must do your own due diligence to evaluate the expert.

#### Search within Experts

Enter your search term (

#### Select Expert Type

Any ~

Select Expert State

Any

#### Have you met?



Mina Ratkalkar, Ph.D., LCSW

Daniel Communication

## IDS – Private Investigator Directory

www.ncids.org/private-investigator-directory

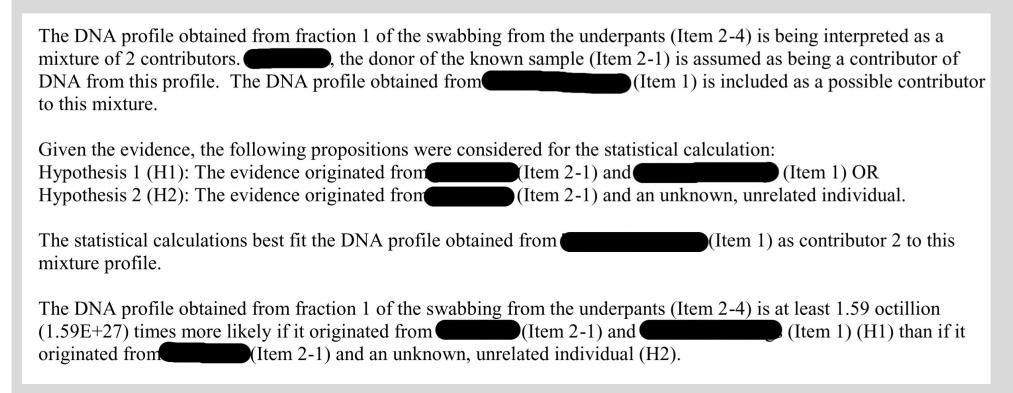




## **Story Time**







Based on quantification results from fraction 2 of Item 2-4 an insufficient amount of DNA was detected, therefore this sample is not being amplified. No further analysis was performed on this sample.



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Any ~

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Any

#### Have you met?



Mina Ratkalkar, Ph.D., LCSW

Daniel Communication

### AOC-G-309

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	File No.(s)
County	In The General Court Of Justice ☐ District ☐ Superior Court Division
Name Of Indigent Defendant Or Respondent	APPLICATION AND ORDER FOR DEFENSE EXPERT WITNESS FUNDING IN
Highest Original Charge (Criminal) Or Nature Of Proceeding (Civil)	NON-CAPITAL CRIMINAL AND NON-CRIMINAL CASES AT THE TRIAL LEVEL
	G.S. 7A-314(d) 7A-454 7A-498 5(f) 15A-905(c)(2)

INSTRUCTIONS: Use this form only if you are representing an indigent person at state expense, or if you have been retained but the Court has entered an Order finding your client indigent for purposes of obtaining expert assistance, and then only in a case in which the Court is responsible for approving funds for experts, i.e., non-capital and non-criminal cases at the trial level. Do NOT use this form in case types where counsel must seek prior approval for expert funding from the Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS) (e.g., potentially capital cases). Do NOT use this form for non-expert flat fee services, such as polygraph examinations, medical procedures, lab testing, or defense-requested sentencing plans; to seek prior approval for such services, the attorney should submit a motion and proposed Order to the Court.

The attorney for the defendant or respondent completes <u>Section I</u> and submits the form and a supporting motion justifying the requested expert services to the Court. If permitted by case law, the attorney for the defendant or respondent may submit this form and the supporting motion ex parte. If funding is approved, the Court completes <u>Section II</u> and the attorney provides a copy of the form to the approved expert. The expert completes <u>Section III</u> and <u>Section IIV</u> after services are rendered to apply for payment. The expert then submits the completed form, along with an itemized invoice and any required receipts, to IDS Financial Services, PO Box 2448, Raleigh, NC 27602. The expert also submits a copy to the requesting attorney.

#### I. DEFENSE REQUEST

Based on the factual showing in the attached supporting motion as required by Ake v. Oklahoma and its progeny, the undersigned attorney for the defendant or respondent named above requests funding for the following expert services. The attorney certifies that the information provided below is true and accurate.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	File No.(s)
County	In The General Court Of Justice  District Superior Court Division
Name Of Indigent Defendant Or Respondent	APPLICATION AND ORDER FOR DEFENSE EXPERT WITNESS FUNDING IN
Highest Original Charge (Criminal) Or Nature Of Proceeding (Civil)	NON-CAPITAL CRIMINAL AND NON-CRIMINAL CASES AT THE TRIAL LEVEL
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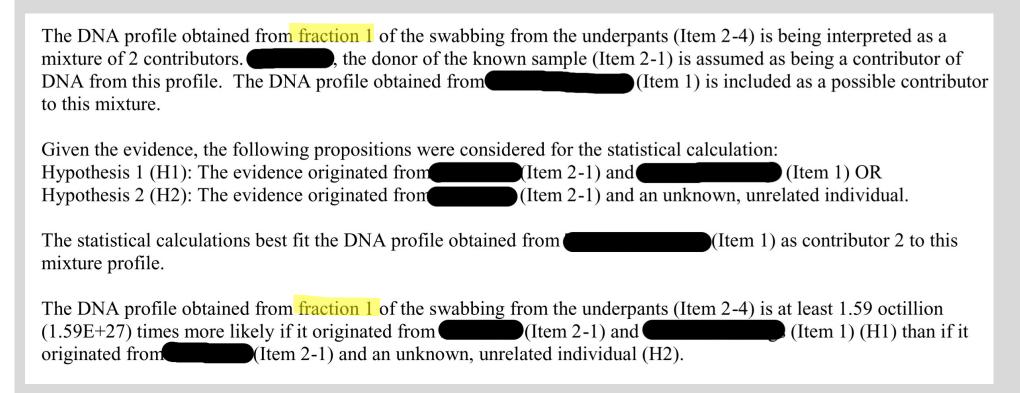
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### Make Sure it is Ex Parte

		II. COURT ORDER	
denial of such expert assistar ORDERED that the defendar Indigent Defense Services (II this amount except by further rate specified in Section III ar	nce would deprive that or respondent named of the extended to employ the extended the court; and the applicable IDS ort identified in Section at this motion is deni	e defendant or respondent of a led above is entitled to \$\frac{3,000}{3,000}\$. pert witness named in Section and that the expert witness named in Section is policy.	preparation of the defense in this case and that the fair trial or other case resolution. Therefore, it is 00 in funds appropriated to the Office of I; that the expert's fees and expenses shall not exceed ned in Section I shall be compensated at the hourly n the preparation of the defense in this case.
☐ The motion submitted by o  ▼ The motion submitted by o	counsel and this Ordo counsel and this Ordo oth in the court file w	er shall be sealed, and counsel thin 30 days of final disposition	le and only opened upon further order of the Court. shall retain the sealed motion and Order while this at the trial level.
Date	Name Of Judge		Signature Of Judge



Based on quantification results from fraction 2 of Item 2-4 an insufficient amount of DNA was detected, therefore this sample is not being amplified. No further analysis was performed on this sample.



### Fact Investigators are Priceless

- Find a good one.
- Set the ground rules.
- · Let them work.
- Examples
  - 15 year old charged with First Degree Murder in Goldsboro
  - 17 year old charged with First Degree Murder in Kinston



## The Case



### G.S. 7B-3001(c)

- All records and files maintained by the Division pursuant to this Chapter shall be withheld from public inspection. The following persons may examine and obtain copies of the Division records and files concerning a juvenile without an order of the court:
  - (1) The juvenile and the juvenile's attorney;



TO: Kristie Howell, Chief Court Counselor

FR: Dustin B. Pittman, Attorney for the Juvenile

RE: A.C., a Juvenile

Case: 24-JB-115

Chief Court Counsellor Howell,

As you are aware, the above-referenced juvenile has been charged with criminal offenses to include Attempted <u>First Degree</u> Murder. I am his attorney of record in the above-referenced juvenile file. Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 7B-3001(c), please make available the above-referenced juvenile's file maintained by the Division of Juvenile Justice so that the undersigned attorney may review and/or copy the file in order to provide legal representation for the juvenile. The file should include the following documents and information:

- Family background information;
- Any report made by any individual or group involving the juvenile or the juvenile's family's social, medical, psychological, psychiatric, or education <u>status</u>;
- Any interviews made by the court counselor;
- Any information regarding the juvenile's prior record in any and all districts in the State of North Carolina, including but not limited to a <u>print out</u> of the juvenile's NC Join File;
- Any and all records of communication regarding the juvenile including case notes, electronic mail messages, letters, faxes, or other forms of communication;



1734506	3/8/2022 20:39	3/8/2022 20:40	35.39654	-77.994945	10	1	1102 N George St, Goldsboro, NC 27530, USA
1734506	3/8/2022 20:40	3/8/2022 20:45	35.396445	-77.994929	9	0	1100 N George St, Goldsboro, NC 27530, USA
1734506	3/8/2022 20:41	3/8/2022 20:45	35.396517	-77.99495	9	1	1102 N George St, Goldsboro, NC 27530, USA
1734506	3/8/2022 20:42	3/8/2022 20:45	35.396628	-77.995038	9	0	1102 N George St, Goldsboro, NC 27530, USA
1734506	3/8/2022 20:43	3/8/2022 20:45	35.396527	-77.99502	8	1	1100 N George St, Goldsboro, NC 27530, USA
1734506	3/8/2022 20:44	3/8/2022 20:45	35.396507	-77.994983	10	0	1100 N George St, Goldsboro, NC 27530, USA
1734506	3/8/2022 23:04	3/8/2022 23:05	35.397379	-77.99422	6	0	209 Fussell St, Goldsboro, NC 27530, USA
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1734506	3/8/2022 23:07	3/8/2022 23:34	35.397297	-77.994237	6	0	209 Fussell St, Goldsboro, NC 27530, USA
1734506	3/8/2022 23:08	3/8/2022 23:34	35.397343	-77.994228	7	0	209 Fussell St, Goldsboro, NC 27530, USA
1734506	3/8/2022 23:09	3/8/2022 23:34	35.397353	-77.99425	7	0	209 Fussell St, Goldsboro, NC 27530, USA



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1734506	Event	Position Fix Available	N/A	03/08/2022 23:04 03/08/2022 23:05
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1734506	Event	Beacon Enter - (ID: 4919033)	N/A	03/08/2022 20:39 03/08/2022 20:40
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1734506	Event	Beacon Leave - (ID: 4919033)	N/A	03/08/2022 20:10 03/08/2022 20:16
1734506	Event	Tracker Battery Level - 100%	N/A	03/08/2022 19:46 03/08/2022 19:46
1734506	Event	Charger Disconnected	N/A	03/08/2022 19:46 03/08/2022 19:46
1734506	Event	External Battery Installed - 89%	N/A	03/08/2022 19:46 03/08/2022 19:46
1734506	Event	Tracker Battery Level - 100%	N/A	03/08/2022 19:46 03/08/2022 19:46
1734506	Event	Charger Disconnected	N/A	03/08/2022 19:46 03/08/2022 19:46
1734506	Event	Tracker Battery Charged	N/A	03/08/2022 19:45 03/08/2022 19:46



Device	Status	Alert Type		Paired With	<b>Event Date</b>	Rec Date
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1734506	Event	Beacon Enter - (ID: 4919033)	N/A		03/08/2022 20:39	03/08/2022 2 <mark>0:40</mark>
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1734506	Event	Tracker Battery Level - 100%	N/A		03/08/2022 19:46	03/08/2022 19:46
1734506	Event	Charger Disconnected	N/A		03/08/2022 19:46	03/08/2022 19:46
1734506	Event	Tracker Battery Charged	N/A		03/08/2022 19:45	03/08/2022 19:46



Performing an address proximity analysis for March 8 2022, using location 252 S Wysteria Rd, Goldsboro NC from 00:00 through 23:59 and a range of 200' radius, client is not in this vicinity during this time.

Regards,

Michelle C. Wilson

Michelle C. Wilson Account Manager BI, Inc.

Office: 910-968-9223 Mobile: 919-909-0209



X		1.	ISSAL Indersigned prosecutor enters a dismissal to the above offenses and assigns the following reasons: Indersigned prosecutor enters a dismissal to the above offenses and assigns the following reasons: Indere is insufficient evidence to warrant an adjudication of delinquency for the following reasons:
		3.	Juvenile has agreed to admit to the following offenses:
			in exchange for a dismissal of the following offenses:
	X	4.	Other: (specify) See additional information on reverse.  There exists a conflict within the evidence as it is presently known by law enforcement that jeopardizes the ability of the state to successfully proceed with the probable cause hearing court ordered to be held this day. Therefore, this petition is dismissed with the intention to request a new one should futher investigation support such an action.





## Questions?

