

Substance Use and Offenders: From High to Homicidal

Charles Scott, MD

Keynote Presentation

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN (3.0)

POST TBD, MCLE TBD

Narrative

This presentation highlights key legal and medical issues related to offenders who misuse substances. Dr. Scott will summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases that have grappled with the relationship of substance use intoxication and psychosis to personality responsibility for one's criminal behavior. Key factors in distinguishing substance induced psychosis vs. psychosis secondary to a primary mental disorder will be highlighted. Dr. Scott will highlight the relationship of alcohol, marijuana, stimulants, opiates, and other substances to criminal behavior. In addition, key factors impacting relapse risk will be reviewed, including evidence-based treatment approaches to substance use. Medication Assisted Treatments to help prevent relapse will be discussed. Specific bodily fluid testing methods will be noted to maximize chances for early detection and sobriety maintenance.

BIO

Charles Scott, MD

Chief, Division of Psychiatry & the Law; Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Training Director; Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, University of California, Davis Medical Center

Charles is Chief, Division of Psychiatry and the Law, Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Training Director, and Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the University of California, Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California. He is Board Certified in Forensic Psychiatry, General Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Addiction Psychiatry. Charles is a Past-President of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) and is also Past-President of the Association of Directors of Forensic Psychiatry Fellowships. He has served as a member of the AAPL national task force to develop guidelines for the evaluation of criminal responsibility and competency to stand trial. Charles is one of four national AAPL Forensic Psychiatry Review Course Faculty instructors and in 2008 received the AAPL award as the most outstanding forensic psychiatry fellowship program instructor in the United States. He has served as a forensic psychiatric consultant to jails, prisons, maximum security forensic inpatient units, California Department of State Hospitals, and as a consultant to the National Football League (NFL) providing training on violence risk assessment for NFL counselors. He has performed suitability evaluations for NASA's Astronaut Selection Board. His academic subspecialty is child and adolescent forensic psychiatry. Charles has authored book chapters on juvenile violence, mental health law, and co-authored chapters on child psychiatry and the assessment of dangerousness. He has served as editor or co-editor for numerous books. He is also co-editor of the Third Edition of Principles and Practice of Forensic Psychiatry, which was awarded the 2018 Manfred Guttmacher Award by the American Psychiatric Association for best forensic publication of the year.

His research interests include the relationship of substance use to aggression among criminal defendants, on the quality of forensic evaluations of criminal responsibility, child witness testimony, malingering, and assessment of posttraumatic stress disorder. He lectures nationally on the topics of malingering, violence risk assessment, juvenile violence, substance use and violence, the assessment of sex offenders, correctional psychiatry, DSM-5 and the law, and malpractice issues in mental health.

Learning Objectives

1. Explain the impact of US Supreme Court cases addressing the relationship of substance use to criminal responsibility.
2. Identify factors that assist in distinguishing primary psychotic disorders vs. substance induced psychotic disorders.
3. Describe how the use of alcohol and drug testing methodologies can assist in devising a monitoring plan to help detect early relapse into alcohol and substance use.