

HEATHER MANNING, PH.D

FORENSIC CRIMINOLOGIST

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Dr. Heather L. Manning is a forensic criminologist specializing in human trafficking, victimology, exploitation dynamics, and criminal behavior analysis. She holds a Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology and has extensive experience in forensic research, higher education, victim-focused investigations, and professional training. In addition to her academic and professional expertise, Dr. Manning brings the unique perspective of a lived survivor of exploitation, providing valuable insight into the complex psychological, behavioral, and systemic factors associated with human trafficking and victimization. Her expertise includes the behavioral, psychological, and criminological factors associated with human trafficking, coercive control, exploitation methods, offender behavior, victim responses, trauma dynamics, and institutional risk factors. Through the integration of scholarly research, investigative experience, and lived experience, Dr. Manning provides a comprehensive understanding of trafficking dynamics, survivor experiences, and the factors that influence victim vulnerability, exploitation, disclosure, and recovery.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Human Trafficking
 - Victimology and Victim Behavior
 - Exploitation Dynamics
 - Coercive Control and Psychological Manipulation
 - Trauma and Trauma Responses
 - Vulnerable Populations
 - Child Exploitation and Abuse Dynamics
 - Sexual Exploitation
 - Criminal Behavior Analysis
 - Offender Motivation and Behavioral Patterns
 - Domestic Violence Dynamics
 - Investigative Interviewing Practices
 - Institutional Risk Assessment
 - Prevention and Training Models
 - Cold Case Analysis
 - Forensic Criminology
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D), Forensic Psychology

Walden University | 2024

Dissertation: "Psychosocial Factors of Foster Parents Who Engage in Contact Sexual Abuse"

Master of Arts, Forensic Psychology

Argosy University | 2014

Bachelor of Science, Psychology

University of Phoenix | 2011

FORENSIC CONSULTATION AND EXPERT SERVICE AREAS

- Human trafficking
- Sexual exploitation
- Child sexual abuse and neglect
- Victim behavior & victimology
- Coercive control
- Cold case investigative analysis
- Trauma-informed investigations

Available for consultation, deposition and trial testimony.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PRESIDENT / CHIEF CONSULTANT | SENTINEL ASSESSMENTS & FORENSIC EVALUATIONS

2023 - Present

- Provide forensic consultation and behavioral analysis in matters involving human trafficking, sexual exploitation, child victimization, violent crime, and institutional liability.
- Conduct comprehensive case reviews by evaluating investigative records, witness statements, victim histories, law enforcement reports, and other case materials to identify behavioral patterns, exploitation dynamics, and risk factors.
- Analyze offender behaviors, coercive control strategies, grooming methods, victim-offender relationships, and trafficking indicators using evidence-based criminological and psychological principles.
- Prepare written forensic analyses, expert opinions, and consultation reports addressing victimology, offender behavior, institutional risk, and exploitation dynamics.
- Provide forensic consultation and behavioral analysis in matters involving human trafficking, sexual exploitation, child victimization, violent crime, and institutional liability.
- Conduct comprehensive case reviews by evaluating investigative records, witness statements, victim histories, law enforcement reports, and other case materials to identify behavioral patterns, exploitation dynamics, and risk factors.
- Analyze offender behaviors, coercive control strategies, grooming methods, victim-offender relationships, and trafficking indicators using evidence-based criminological and psychological principles.
- Prepare written forensic analyses, expert opinions, and consultation reports addressing victimology, offender behavior, institutional risk, and exploitation dynamics.
- Advise attorneys, organizations, and multidisciplinary professionals on issues related to human trafficking, victim behavior, trauma responses, offender methodologies, and prevention strategies.
- Develop and deliver professional training programs for law enforcement, healthcare professionals, educators, nonprofit organizations, and community agencies on human trafficking recognition, exploitation prevention, trauma-informed practices, and institutional risk reduction.
- Conduct organizational risk assessments and provide recommendations to strengthen policies, procedures, and prevention strategies designed to reduce opportunities for exploitation and abuse.
- Integrate current empirical research, forensic psychology, criminological theory, and survivor-informed perspectives into consultation, education, and expert analysis.
- Serve as a subject matter expert on victimology, criminal behavior, exploitation dynamics, and the behavioral and psychological factors influencing victim vulnerability and offender decision-making.

COLD CASE WORK GROUP RESEARCHER & TEAM LEAD | COLD CASE COALITION

2024 - Present

- Serve as forensic criminology analyst supporting unresolved violent crime investigations involving complex behavioral and victimological factors.
- Lead interdisciplinary teams by assigning research tasks, validating methodologies, and ensuring analytical rigor.
- Conduct in-depth case linkage analysis, victimology assessments, and offender profiling to identify patterns and investigative priorities.
- Produce written intelligence-style assessments and deliver oral briefings to law enforcement partners to inform targeting and investigative direction.

PROFESSOR / SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT | EVIDENTIA UNIVERSITY

2024 - Present

- Deliver graduate-level instruction in criminal profiling, behavioral analysis, and investigative psychology grounded in FBI-aligned analytical frameworks.
- Design curricula integrating real-world case analysis, intelligence evaluation, and behavioral indicators relevant to law enforcement operations.
- Translate academic research and complex data into applied analytical models supporting investigative and security objectives.

PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR | ROCHESTER GENERAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH CAREERS

2025

- Directed operations and led curriculum development in the institution's psychology department.
- Conducted research on child victimization and exploitation trends, synthesizing findings into presentations and operational insights.
- Collaborated with institutional leadership and external partners to support compliance, accreditation, and applied learning outcomes.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD MEMBER | PEARL IRB

2025 - Present

- Review and evaluate research involving vulnerable populations to ensure compliance with federal regulations and ethical standards.
- Assess risk mitigation strategies, data integrity, and human-subject protections relevant to forensic and investigative research.
- Serves as the subject matter expert in the areas of crime and psychology, as well as the Board's Prison Rep.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & COMPULSIVE DISORDERS THERAPIST | LA-FRONTERA EMPACT

2016-2018

- Developed specialized expertise in the relationship between trauma, addiction, coercive relationships, and victim vulnerability through the treatment of individuals with substance use and co-occurring behavioral health disorders.
- Applied trauma-informed therapeutic approaches to individuals affected by abuse, interpersonal violence, exploitation, and adverse life experiences.
- Evaluated the psychological and behavioral impact of trauma, substance dependence, and coercive dynamics on decision-making, coping strategies, treatment engagement, and recovery.
- Strengthened expertise regarding the complex relationship between substance use, exploitation, victimization, and barriers to disclosure, recovery, and long-term stability.

SEXUAL OFFENDER TREATMENT THERAPIST | WASHINGTON DEPT OF CORRECTIONS

2013-2015

- Developed specialized expertise in sexual offending behavior, offender motivation, grooming strategies, coercive control, manipulation tactics, and exploitation dynamics through direct treatment of incarcerated sexual offenders.
- Evaluated behavioral patterns associated with sexual offending, including grooming, victim targeting, cognitive distortions, entitlement beliefs, and strategies used to gain and maintain control over victims.
- Applied criminological and psychological frameworks to understand offender decision-making, escalation patterns, and behaviors relevant to sexual exploitation and trafficking-related offenses.
- Provided clinical insight into offender behaviors that overlap with human trafficking dynamics, including coercion, psychological manipulation, dependency creation, and victim control.

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVESTIGATOR | WASHINGTON DEPT OF CHILD AND FAMILIES

2012-2013

- Conducted child protection investigations involving abuse, neglect, exploitation, and trauma, developing specialized expertise in victimology, vulnerability factors, disclosure behaviors, and the impact of victimization on children and families.
- Evaluated behavioral, environmental, and relational factors associated with exploitation risk, coercive control, grooming, and continued victimization.
- Conducted trauma-informed interviews and assessments to understand victim experiences, behavioral responses, and barriers to disclosure.
- Developed expertise in recognizing patterns of victimization, offender access behaviors, manipulation tactics, and systemic factors affecting vulnerable populations.
- Collaborated with multidisciplinary professionals to assess safety, coordinate interventions, and support investigations involving vulnerable victims.

- Developed specialized expertise in the dynamics of domestic violence, coercive control, trauma bonding, psychological manipulation, victim behavior, and barriers to disclosure and help-seeking.
 - Applied trauma-informed practices in assessing victim safety, crisis response, and individualized intervention planning for survivors of interpersonal violence.
 - Observed and documented patterns of coercion, intimidation, isolation, dependency, and offender control strategies commonly associated with abusive relationships and exploitation.
 - Collaborated with multidisciplinary professionals to support victim safety, coordinate services, and facilitate access to legal, medical, and social support systems.
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ACADEMIA TEACHING EXPERIENCES

ROCHESTER GENERAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH

COURSES FACILITATED

- General Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Sociology (Deviancy Guest Speaker)

EVIDENTIA UNIVERSITY

COURSES FACILITATED

- Criminal Profiling
- Criminal Investigative Analysis

COURSES DEVELOPED

- Criminal Investigative Analysis
 - Investigative Psychology
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PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Manning, H. (2026). *Protecting Our Most Vulnerable: Why Childcare Centers Need Forensic Criminologists*. LinkedIn.
- Manning, H. (2026). *Why Victims Stay: Understanding Sexual Abuse Dynamics and the Evidentiary Weight of Survivor Testimony*. LinkedIn.
- Manning, H. (2025). *Bodies of Long Island: Re-examining the presence of multiple serial killers*. LinkedIn.
- Manning, H. (2025). *Surviving James*. Amazon.
- Manning, H. (July 2025). *Applying Psychological Principles to your Career in Healthcare*. Professional Development Conference, Rochester Regional Health, Rochester, NY, U.S.
- Manning, H. (February 2025). *Human Trafficking & Healthcare*. Professional Development Conference, Rochester Regional Health, Rochester, NY, U.S.
- Manning, H. (2024). *Psycho-social factors of foster parents who engage in contact sexual abuse*. Proquest.
- Manning, H. (2026). *Killing Kids*. [in progress]
- Manning, H. (2026). *The Hidden Intersection: Examining Human Trafficking Risks Within Legalized Commercial Sex Markets*. [in progress]

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS & CERTIFICATIONS

THE POLARIS PROJECT

- Human Trafficking 101

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

- Mandated Reporter: Identifying & Reporting Child Abuse and Maltreatment

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

- Introduction to NCMEC
 - Resources for Child Welfare Professionals
 - Child Sex Trafficking for Child Welfare Professionals
 - Support for Victims and Survivors of CSAM
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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Society for Police & Criminal Psychology
- American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Sciences