

## ***Polygraphs and Examiners; a Psychological Perspective***

*Objective- To introduce and reinforce the unique relationship psychologists and polygraph examiners have that supports each other's work. To provide case examples that have demonstrated the importance of the psychologist/polygraph examiner collaboration. To bring to light the common frustrations and rewards of this type of work that are inherent in law enforcement. To describe best practices for self-care among examiners to ensure good work-life balance, and to introduce the concept of periodic wellness visits with a licensed mental health provider, and FAQs.*



**Darren L. Higginbotham**

Darren L. Higginbotham, Psy.D., is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Indianapolis, IN. He earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and his master's and doctoral degrees from the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology. He completed an internship at the Federal DOJ/Bureau of Prisons, and his residency at the Citadel Military College in Charleston, South Carolina. He has worked with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for more than 20 years. His practice provides pre-employment psychological evaluations, fitness-for-duty evaluations, critical incident debriefings, wellness visits, EAP/therapy, risk assessments, and training to a variety of public safety agencies. He is a consultant and subject-matter expert for the State of Indiana on pre-employment psychological evaluation standards and mental health disability retirement claims. He frequently collaborates with polygraph examiners, particularly in the pre-employment/hiring process with applicants, as well as during wellness visits to address their specific work and personal stressors.