



Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen
Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid



Netherlands Institute of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology

General information

About the NIFP

The NIFP is a national agency of the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security and forms part of the Custodial Institutions Agency (DJI). We are specialised in forensic psychiatry and psychology and the provision of physical care in custodial institutions.

Our duties include the following:

- Behavioural examinations in the context of court proceedings.
- Scientific research and the exchange of information in our field of expertise.
- Organising training courses in the field of forensic psychiatry and psychology and to care providers in custodial institutions.
- Psychiatric treatment of detainees and persons held in immigration detention.
- The drafting of indications for detainees requiring treatment.
- The drafting of frameworks and guidelines for somatic and psychological care in detention.

What does the NIFP do

Care

It is important that persons detained in a custodial institution are able to receive proper care. Detainees are as much entitled to proper care as anyone else. The quality of the care provided must also be of the same level.

Psychological care

Psychological issues are common among detainees. Providing the right treatment may help prevent someone from offending again. And it helps detainees to return to society at a later stage. Our psychiatrists treat people suffering from psychological problems in the DJI's institutions. Within the institutions, they work together with prison psychologists, general practitioners, and nurses. In so doing, they always take account of the treatment someone received prior to being detained. They also make sure the treatment links up to the programme to be followed once the period of incarceration ends.

Frameworks, guidelines, and organisation of the care

The NIFP also develops frameworks and guidelines for other care providers working in the institutions, be it for psychological or physical care. Such care providers include psychologists, prison nurses, and dentists. We monitor the quality of the care provided and submit proposals for improvement. We also look at the costs and the procurement of care.

The NIFP employs medical advisers providing advice on topics related to physical care, such as suitability for detention, suspension of sentences, compassionate leave, and transfer to another institution.



Behavioural expert advice

In the context of court proceedings, behavioural investigations are conducted. Such investigations are performed by a psychiatrist and/or a psychologist, and sometimes by a forensic environmental researcher.

The NIFP plays various parts in the drafting of behavioural expert reports for the courts:

- The NIFP advises on whether an investigation is required.
- The NIFP contacts a consultant to conduct the investigation.
- The NIFP reviews the report and discusses its comments with the consultant.
- The NIFP organises training and refresher courses for the consultants.

Various types of behavioural expert investigations

Advice in criminal proceedings

During criminal proceedings, it may happen that the judge or the public prosecutor suspects that an accused is suffering from mental problems. If so, they will order a behavioural expert investigation to be conducted. This is an investigation into the personality of the accused. Should an accused be found to suffer from a psychological disorder, this may impact the degree to which they are held culpable for the offence. The report provides an advice on the matter. The report also contains information on the likelihood of a repeat offence and advice on possible treatment.

The investigation can take place within or outside of a medical centre. All in-clinic investigations take place at the Pieter Baan Centre (PBC), the NIFP's forensic observation clinic. In-clinic investigations are more extensive and intensive than out-clinic investigations. The accused is examined by a multi-disciplinary team comprised of a psychiatrist, a psychologist, and a forensic environmental researcher for a period of six weeks. In addition, the supervisory team observes the accused's behaviour.

Advice and report in family-law cases

Behavioural expert investigations may also be conducted in family-law cases, such as when the question arises whether children can return to their parents' care after a long period of placement in care, or to assess what is in the interest of the children in complex divorce cases.

Such investigations can be ordered by the juvenile and family court, the court of appeal, a certified youth protection institution, or the Child Care and Protection Board. The consultants also draw up declarations of consent required for an authorisation for placement in secure residential care for juveniles.

Hospital order advice

A court may impose a hospital order on persons who have committed a serious crime and have been found to be partially or fully not criminal responsible. This means that the offender cannot be held (fully) liable for the offence because they suffer from a psychological disorder. They are also at risk of reoffending.

They are treated in a forensic hospital to prepare them for their return to society. At fixed moments during the treatment, the court will decide whether the hospital order needs to be extended. This is based on a behavioural expert report. In addition, the NIFP provides advice on individual treatments and requests for leave.

The consultants

The consultants engaged by the NIFP to conduct behavioural expert investigations for the courts are self-employed professionals. All consultants must first complete a NIFP training course to conduct behavioural expert investigations. They must then be registered in the Netherlands Register of Court Experts (NRGD).



Forensic care needs assessment

The court may find that a detainee requires treatment. Such treatment is provided to reduce the likelihood of someone reoffending.

A referral is needed to have a detainee be provided with treatment in an institution. This is referred to as the forensic care needs assessment. The NIFP provides the forensic care needs assessments. It assesses the care and security measures someone requires.

The NIFP acts as an independent agent when conducting the forensic care needs assessment. This means that we have no interest in where the detainee is transferred to.

Scientific research

The NIFP develops and exchanges knowledge in the field of forensic psychiatry and psychology. This is a constantly changing field of study. Scientific knowledge about, for example, risk assessments, treatment methods, and the methodological development of research is rapidly evolving. Both society and the political arena critically monitor these developments. They wish to know why behavioural experts choose to apply a specific research method. They also have questions about the effectiveness of treatment provided in forensic care.

The NIFP conducts research into these topics and shares its knowledge with persons within and without the organisation. We also develop new instruments that may be used by the behavioural experts. In addition, we monitor diagnostics, the provision of advice, and treatment in detention.



Training courses

The NIFP organises training courses for professionals, consultants, and chain partners in the field of the provision of care in custodial institutions and court behavioural expert reports. Chain partners include, for example, probation service staff and police officers.

The training courses are compiled and provided by experts in the field concerned, such as psychiatrists and general practitioners. These experts are assisted by colleagues specialised in the field of education.

The courses provided include the training programme for consultants conducting behavioural expert investigations for the courts, the reporting supervisor training, and the prison nurse and prison medical practitioner training courses. In addition, we offer training programmes in the fields of risk assessment, referral meetings for consultants, and training courses in the field of the provision of care to detainees, forensic care needs assessments, and cultural psychiatry. We offer various internships and traineeships, such as the facultative forensic psychiatry internship for trainee psychiatrists and the healthcare psychologist internship.

Organisation

The NIFP has its head office in Utrecht. This is staffed by the board, the policy and supporting services, and the Scientific & Training department. In addition, we have five branch offices. Each branch office is staffed by forensic psychiatrists, psychologists, and legal experts. They are supported by the medical secretariat. The NIFP's observation clinic, the Pieter Baan Centre, is located in Almere.

In case of questions

For more information, please visit our website: www.nifp.nl. The site also contains the address details of our offices.

Our general telephone number is (088) 0710 140. Or contact us by e-mail via nifp@dji.minjus.nl.

Should you have a question for one of our branch offices, please contact the office concerned directly. The contact data are listed on www.nifp.nl.

About the NIFP

The Netherlands Institute of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology (NIFP) is a national agency of the Custodial Institutions Agency, which forms part of the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security.

The NIFP provides expertise and knowledge in the field of forensic psychiatry and psychology and physical care to detainees.

The NIFP's mission statement is: *'Providing advice and care for a safe and humane society'*.

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Colophon

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This is a publication by the NIFP
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