



## Contact

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Name:

Christian Wolff

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Subject:

Urgent need for a response

Message:

June 4, 2017

To whom it may concern at Acumen Institute and Acumen Assessments:

I wrote to you over 3 weeks ago, and so far have not received a response from you of any kind what so ever. I am convinced you are agreeable to email communication since you have an email Contact Form. Perhaps you missed my email. That happens sometimes. I am still concerned that, for some reason, you don't simply publish your email address so people may use their own email client. This would allow people to be sure that their email was received if, say, your Contact Form was not working. Did you receive my email of May 23? I have reproduced it below. Due to the delay in your response, my colleague is feeling pressure to make an uninformed decision about whether to comply with his board's demands or not. He would like to be on solid ground in declining their demands if it turns out that yours is not a reputable facility. Without that information, he will likely comply by default. There is a lot that is on the line for him. I suppose, as experts in behavior generally, and experts in working with healthcare professionals being coerced into assessment and treatment, you know that licensees will comply by default if they are not on solid ground in declining to comply. Is that reasonable to believe – that you would know that?

I have a couple more questions:

1a. Do you require pre-payment for your assessments?

2a. Do you ever refund fees? If so under what conditions do you or do you not provide refunds?

3a. In cases in which it seems that an assessment was, in your opinion, unnecessary, unwarranted, or redundant, do you ever send the bill to the board who coerced licensee into assessment? If so are there any instances at all in which the board has ever paid?

Please get back with me as soon as possible. The matter is of great importance and time is getting VERY tight.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Christian Wolff  
Healthcare Alliance for Regulatory Board Reform (HARBR)

–

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Please type the characters you see into the field below:

Send

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May 13, 2017

To whom it may concern at Acumen Institute and Acumen Assessments:

I have a colleague who is being coerced into an assessment at your facility. He's been ordered to be assessed in exchange for the possible retention of his healthcare license. I have a few questions for you if you would not mind answering them. I do want to say, I am at first read, impressed by your website. As a web designer, I appreciate its good look. As a person with an interest in healthcare, I appreciate the fact that Acumen seems more transparent than other facilities who participate in coercive treatment.

1. Why do you have two separate facilities – Acumen Assessments and the Acumen Institute?
2. What are the tax classifications of each?
3. Do you accept medical insurance? Malpractice insurance? If not why not?
4. Do you have anything to demonstrate a history of the efficacy of your treatment set?
5. Do you use tests which have been tailored to healthcare professionals participating under regulatory board pressures? Do you have information on these tests such as authors, author affiliation, and validity and reliability measures? Publication in major scientific journals along with independent peer review?
6. I see that your staff has a long and impressive list of "Presentations AND Publications." By my count, there are 55 listed. Of those 55, I could only find one item which seemed to be an actual publication. Don't you find that calling that list "Presentations AND Publications" a little misleading? Anyone not looking closely (especially with that section title) could easily assume half the items, more or less were publications. If you had divided this list into two sections for the sake of transparency, you would have had about 54 presentations under "Presentations," and only 1 item under Publications. That publication seems to be a chapter in a handbook:

Stacy, S., Graham, P., Athey, G. (2008). The Use of the Rorschach in Professional Fitness to Practice Evaluations. In Gacono, C., Evans, B., & Kaser-Boyd, N. (Eds.), The Handbook of Forensic Rorschach Psychology. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

When I read a citation, I sometimes look for page numbers in order to see how long a chapter or article is. Your citation has no page numbers.

Published independently peer reviewed written material is more reputable and reliable than presentations to a limited, time specific audience. How do you explain your blending of your 1 publication with 54 presentations?

7. Would you say it is fair to say that the vast majority of your presentations have been to Physician Health Programs (PHP), the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), and affiliates of these two?
8. As professional psychologists, psychiatrists, and other mental health professionals, would you say you understand the importance of independent peer review? How would you explain its importance – or if you prefer, why do believe this is important? Test results? What is the importance of independence in the establishment of test result reliability?
9. Why don't you have a regular email address? I like to keep a paper trail of all my correspondence. Although I personally can work with your format, many people – like those being coerced into treatment – could not. I've noticed that this lack of a simple published email address is a regular feature on websites for facilities which participate in coerced assessments and treatment.
10. Finally, for now: Why don't you just publish the answers to most of the questions I've asked. I'm sure you are aware that your clientele tends to be both scared and skeptical. They are surely going to want to know as much as possible. It seems you should be able to anticipate their questions and it seems the respectful thing to do to provide answers – published and verifiable in advance.

Thank you in advance for answering my questions. I know they seem kind of tough and you may have some apprehension about answering them, but it is important.

I will look forward to your response.

Sincerely,  
Christian Wolff  
Healthcare Alliance for Regulatory Board Reform (HARBR)

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Send

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To inquire about a professional fitness to practice evaluation, visit [Acumen Assessments](#).

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