Felicia Rosario, MD

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dr. Felicia Rosario is a forensic behavioral analyst and litigation consultant specializing in coercive control, psychological manipulation, and human trafficking. She is retained by attorneys in complex civil and criminal litigation to explain how power imbalances, fear, and exploitation can shape behavior, communication, and testimony in state, federal, and international proceedings. She holds an MD from Columbia University, completed a psychiatry internship at LAC+USC Medical Center, and is a member of Harvard Medical School's Program in Psychiatry and the Law.

EXPERT WITNESS & CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Forensic Behavioral Analyst & Litigation Consultant

Felicia Rosario Consulting — Los Angeles, CA | 2023–Present

Provides expert consulting, record review, and behavioral analysis in complex civil and criminal litigation involving coercive control, psychological manipulation, and human trafficking. Services include case strategy consultation, expert reports, witness preparation, deposition and trial testimony, and litigation support.

Representative Cases

- 2026: Criminal matter, State — retained to provide expertise on cultic dynamics and coercive control in child murder case.
- 2026: Criminal matter, State — retained to provide coercive control expertise and child neglect analysis on murder charge.
- 2026: Civil matter, State — retained to provide record review and behavioral analysis of coercive control and exploitation dynamics.
- 2026: Family law custody matter, Canada — retained by respondent to analyze coercive control dynamics and prepare expert report in cross-border proceedings governed by the Children's Law Reform Act.
- 2025: Federal human trafficking matter, State — retained on behalf of victim to provide behavioral analysis and preparation for adversarial questioning; addressed affective expression and response patterns commonly observed in trauma-impacted individuals in legal proceedings.
- 2024: Criminal/domestic violence matter, State — retained by plaintiff to analyze recantation, contradictory statements, and behavior under coercive conditions; consulted

on interpretation of trauma-impacted presentation and communication with involved agencies.

- 2024: Criminal matter, State — retained by defense to analyze trauma-related dissociation and non-reactive affective presentation following a high-stress incident; prepared behavioral analysis relevant to counsel's assessment of client behavior under acute stress.
- 2023: Family law custody matter, State — retained by defense to analyze influence dynamics, inconsistent statements, and trauma-impacted presentation affecting narrative stability; consulted on behavioral considerations relevant to custody and safety evaluation.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Behavioral Analysis & Forensic Interpretation

- Coercive control and undue influence
- Trauma-distorted behavior and affect
- Recantation and inconsistent statements
- Delayed disclosure and reporting patterns
- Behavior under duress and psychological pressure
- Power dynamics and dominance patterns
- Grooming, manipulation, and predatory influence
- Analysis of autonomy versus external influence
- High-control groups and institutional manipulation
- Behavioral analysis relevant to credibility determinations

Behavioral & Trauma-Informed Knowledge Base

- Neurobiological basis of trauma responses (fight, flight, freeze, fawn)
- Impact of chronic stress and fear on cognition and decision-making
- Dissociation, trauma bonding, and learned helplessness
- Memory fragmentation and trauma-related recall issues

Case Types

Criminal (human trafficking, sexual assault, homicide, coercion) | Civil (institutional abuse, coercive control, cult dynamics, undue influence, exploitation) | State, federal, and international

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE & MEDIA

Executive Producer & Featured Subject

Stolen Youth: Inside the Cult at Sarah Lawrence | *Hulu* | *2020–2023*

- Provided firsthand account and analysis of coercive control, psychological manipulation, and trauma-related survival responses.
- Consulted to support accurate and ethical portrayal of influence dynamics and survivor behavior.

EDUCATION & CLINICAL TRAINING

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, NY | 2011

Bachelor of Arts, Biochemical Sciences

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA | 2004

Clinical Psychiatry Training

LAC+USC Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA | 2011–2012

- Completed psychiatry internship (PGY-1) at one of the nation's highest-volume psychiatric emergency services.
- Conducted psychiatric evaluations, crisis assessments, and involuntary commitment determinations (5150/5250 evaluations) under attending supervision in emergency and inpatient settings.
- Developed extensive clinical experience with trauma presentations, dissociation, behavioral crises, and psychiatric conditions.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

Strategic Interactive Approach (SIA) — Steven Hassan, PhD, Freedom of Mind Resource Center | 2023. Methodology for understanding and intervening in undue influence, cult dynamics, and coercive control.

Post-Cult Counseling & the Walking Free Model (WFM) Certification — Dr. Gillie Jenkinson, PhD | 2025–2026, completed July 2026. Phase-based clinical approach to recovery from coercive, cultic, and spiritual abuse.

Ending the Game (ETG) Facilitator Certification — Rachel Thomas, MA | February 2021. Evidence-based intervention for individuals impacted by commercial sexual exploitation.

TRAININGS & CLINICAL RESOURCES

- **Co-Author** — Rosario, F. (2026, January). Federal provider handout on identifying human trafficking survivors during SANE/SAFE forensic medical exams. Commissioned by HHS/HRSA; developed with Shobana Powell Consulting and ICF; in national use by healthcare providers (2026).

- **Featured Survivor Voice** — NOMI corporate-leadership training video series on working effectively with human trafficking survivors. Developed with Shobana Powell Consulting (2025).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & SERVICE

Member, Program in Psychiatry and the Law (PIPATL) | Harvard Medical School | 2023–Present

Selective, invitation-based interdisciplinary program of psychiatrists, psychologists, attorneys, and legal scholars focused on advanced education, scholarship, and professional dialogue at the intersection of psychiatry and law.

Member, International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) | 2023–Present

Specialized focus on coercive control, high-control groups, and influence dynamics.

Member, International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD) | 2025–Present

Specialized focus on trauma, dissociation, and complex trauma presentations in clinical and forensic contexts.

Scientific Committee Member, International Academy of Law and Mental Health (IALMH), 39th International Congress on Law and Mental Health, Montréal, Canada | 2026

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Delivered

Rosario, F. (2026, March 29). Reframing shame: Creating a path to autonomy and resilience in trauma recovery [Conference presentation]. Annual conference of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation, Portland, OR.

Rosario, F. (2026, April 30). What do the Epstein Files, The Handmaid's Tale, and the crisis in Afghanistan have in common? [Panel presentation]. Voices Unveiled [virtual].

Rosario, F. (2026, June 9). When trafficking doesn't look like trafficking [Conference presentation]. World Without Exploitation Conference, Washington, DC.

Rosario, F. (2026, June 30). Survivors as experts: The role of lived experience in forensic evaluations and legal strategy [Conference presentation]. Annual conference of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health, Montréal, Canada.

Rosario, F. (2026, July 1). Healing from legal trauma: Addressing secondary victimization in the justice system [Conference presentation]. Annual conference of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health, Montréal, Canada.

Rosario, F. (2026, July 1). Therapeutic witness as a bridge between lived experience and professional practice in addressing inhuman violence [Panel presentation]. Annual conference of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health, Montréal, Canada.

Rosario, F. (2026, July 2). When shame becomes internalized control: An expressive arts approach [Conference presentation]. Annual conference of the International Cultic Studies Association, San Diego, CA.

Rosario, F. (2026, July 3). A reckoning in the Troubled Teen Industry: Survivor voices, legal accountability, and institutional harm [Panel presentation]. Annual conference of the International Cultic Studies Association, San Diego, CA.

Rosario, F. (2026, October 17). The price of belonging: Financial abuse, coercive control, and cult and trafficking survivorship. Virtual presentation within event focus area, ‘The weaponisation of financial abuse as a tactic of coercive control’ at the annual Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Festival of Social Science, United Kingdom.