

Status of Sunset Process

The Sunset Advisory Commission staff report for the Board may be reviewed online at www.sunset.state.tx.us. Click on "Publications," and then scroll down to "Reports Issued March 2004," to the report for the Board. The Sunset Advisory Commission members are currently reviewing this report and will make their final recommendations about the agency within the next week. These recommendations will then be drafted in the form of proposed legislation amending the Psychologists' Licensing Act. In turn, this proposed legislation will be considered by the 79th Texas Legislature when it meets in January 2005.

Renewal Postcard Being Planned: Implementation Pending

The Psychology Board is now planning to change from sending out paper renewal forms to licensees to sending out generic reminder postcards. This change, which could occur as early as September 2004, is being made in order to conserve state funds by encouraging greater usage of on-line renewals. Those licensees who cannot use the on-line renewal option may request a paper renewal form from the Board office. However, such paper renewals would still have to be postmarked by the renewal deadline. Renewal postcards will be mailed out at least 30 days before the renewal deadline.

Many other agencies have made this change and the result has been a large increase in the number of online renewals. Currently, about 30% of Psychology Board renewals occur online, compared to as much as 80% in other health licensing fields.

Memorial Notice for Former Board Member

The Psychology Board regrets to note the passing of one of its public members, Ms. Jess Ann Thomason, of Midland on February 25, 2004. Ms. Thomason had served on the Board since April 16, 2002. She served as Chair of the Public Information Committee and was active in informal settlement conference panels.

Arthur Hernandez, Ph.D., Chair of the Board, commented: "Jess Ann Thomason was a bright and energetic spark for all of us. We will all miss her."