

TSBEP Newsletter

Vol. 12 No. 1
Spring 1999

Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

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Thinking About Retirement?

If retirement is on your horizon, remember, your license status with the Board is an important matter with which you have to deal in a timely manner.

Retirement status with the Board is not automatic. Retirement status must be requested in writing while the license is still active and in good standing, i.e. with no pending complaints. See Board rule 461.7.

A license with the Board does not simply go away if you move out of state or quit practicing. The Board now files a complaint against licensees who fail to submit their continuing education in a timely manner. If the licensee does not respond to the complaint or fails to provide the required continuing education, the license will go non-payment at the end of one year from the renewal date and the complaint will be dismissed. However, should this former licensee ever wish to be licensed again in this state, he or she would begin the application process over and the former complaint would be reinstated.

A licensee who decides to retire *after* their renewal date must make their request in writing, but this request must be reviewed by the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. By rule the Board can not allow a licensee to retire if there is an outstanding complaint for continuing education. If such a licensee does not acquire the continuing education, their only option is to either resign in lieu of adjudication or to let their license go non-payment.

Note: if you are not quite ready to retire, but you are not practicing, you may wish to consider inactive status. See Board rule 461.7(b).

Recodification: 76th Legislature Changes Psychologists' Licensing Act

The 76th Texas Legislature has made significant, but non-substantive, changes to the Psychologists' Licensing Act.

Periodically, the Legislature recodifies existing law. In the 76th Legislative Session, health-licensing acts have been regrouped under a new Occupations Code. This new code will go into effect September 1, 1999.

The purposes of drafting the proposed legislation which became the new Occupations Code was to reorganize the statutes in a logical order, to clarify the language, and to omit duplicative provisions so that the law is more accessible, understandable, and usable. Consequently, the Psychologists' Licensing Act and its provisions will retain the same meanings and legal effect but, hopefully, will be easier for everyone to read and understand. The new legislation was drafted by the Legislative Council, a research entity for the Legislature, and was finally passed during the recent 76th Legislature.

It is expected that the new Act will be included in the next issue of the Board's rulebook. Tentative publication date for this rulebook is September 1999.

Providers of School Psychological Services in the Public Schools

The following information is provided to assist in understanding the Board rules concerning the Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP), especially the use of titles, the definition of the titles, and the supervision requirements regarding such titles.

LSSP, Grandparented:

“Licensed Specialist in School Psychology” or “LSSP”

Meets requirements of Board rule 463.32(f). Grandparented applications are not accepted after September 1, 1997.

Supervision: none required.

LSSP, Regular:

“Licensed Specialist in School Psychology” or “LSSP”

Meets requirements of Board rule 463.32(a) through (d).

Supervision:

With more than one year’s experience, none required. During first year of practice as a licensee, must practice under supervision. See Board rule 465.38(4)(iii). Supervision must be sufficient, given the supervisee’s level of competency and experience, to ensure quality care.

Trainee:

Must be clearly designated at all times as “LSSP Trainee.”

Individuals who have applied for licensure as a regular LSSP and have received notification from Board that they have met all training requirements and passed the National School Psychology Examination.

Supervision:

May provide school psychological services on behalf of public school district to public school students under qualified supervision for up to one year while they take and pass the required Jurisprudence Examination. After one year, if they have not acquired the LSSP, or if at any time during the year the application is voided, ability to practice ends immediately. Patients/clients are the actual patients/clients of the supervisor. The supervisor is directly responsible for all services and actions of the trainee. Trainee status does not qualify trainee to provide psychological services of any other kind.

Intern:

“LSSP Intern”

Must be clearly designated as an “intern” at all times.

Individuals fulfilling internship requirement of Board rule 463.32(b).

Supervision:

Must be under direct supervision of qualified supervisor at all times that school psychological services are being provided to a public school student. If internship not pursuant to a recognized training program at regionally accredited university or college, supervisor is individually responsible for ensuring that internship meets all requirements enumerated in Board rule 463.32(b).

Going Somewhere? Changing Your Name?

There are very good reasons for the Board having a rule that requires licensees to keep their professional files with the Board updated. See Board rule 461.6

Without a current address on file, renewal notices, continuing education audits, newsletters, and new issues of the rulebook cannot be provided to you. The result can be illegal practice of psychology without a current license, a complaint filed against the licensee for failure to submit continuing education, and other rule violations.

Without a current name on file with the Board, it may be impossible for the Board to provide verification of your licensure in this state to anyone seeking this information.

Address Changes:

While Board rule 461.6 only requires that the change of address be submitted within 90 days after the change occurs, licensees should be aware that there could be problems in their receipt of renewal forms at their new addresses if the changes of addresses are not submitted in a very prompt manner.

Renewal forms are sometimes sent out as much as two months in advance. This means that if the licensee's receipt of the renewal form comes at a time when a change of address is occurring, the licensee should send in the change of address as soon as possible and preferably no later than 230 days after the change occurs.

Once the renewal forms have been mailed, the Board must charge \$10 for another renewal form to be sent to an address other than the one that was on record with the Board at the time the renewal forms were mailed.

If a licensee does not receive a renewal form in a timely manner, it is the responsibility of the licensee to write to the Board requesting another copy of the renewal form and submitting the required \$10 fee, in order that he or she may renew the license.

Name Changes:

Name changes on the renewal permits and/or on original licensees can only be made upon the Board's receipt of a written request, documentation of the name change (such as copy of a marriage certificate, divorce decree, driver's license or social security card), and the required fee. There is a \$25 fee for changing the original license name, and a \$10 fee for changing the name on a renewal permit.