

# TSBEP Newsletter

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Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

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## **Letters, Actions, and Reprimands reported as of August 31, 1998**

### ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS:

Complaints: The Board initiated complaints against five licensees for their failure to comply with continuing education requirements. The licensees completed the required hours subsequent to the deadline and 45-day grace period.

Sanctions: Each of the five licensees was assessed an Administrative Penalty, via Board Order, in the amount of \$250, all but \$100 of which was probated provided that the licensee maintains compliance with the continuing education rules.

### RESIGNATIONS:

Complaints: The Board initiated complaints against ten licensees for their failure to comply with continuing education requirements. The licensees notified the Board that they no longer wished to retain their licenses and would voluntarily resign such in lieu of adjudication on the Board's complaints.

Sanctions: The ten licensees signed Board Orders resigning their licenses in lieu of adjudication of the continuing education compliance complaints.

## LETTERS OF INSTRUCTION :

A Letter of Instruction was sent to a psychologist for failing to make appropriate arrangements regarding fees and uses of services with patients and for a clerical error on the part of his office staff. The psychologist was instructed to review Board Rules 465.36 (c)(1)(V), (c)(1)(W) and 465.36 (c)(1)(Y).

A Letter of Instruction was sent to a psychologist for his failure to appropriately document his services, thereby failing to provide for continuity of his patient's care. The psychologist was instructed to review Board rule 465.36 (c)(1)(W)(I).

A Letter of Instruction was sent to a psychologist for his failure to explain the nature of his services and the relationship of the psychologist to each of the various family members to whom he provided services. The psychologist was instructed to review Board rule 465.36 (c)(4)(C).

A Letter of Instruction was sent to a psychologist for his failure to release a patient's records after appropriate patient authorization. The psychologist was instructed to review section 611.0045 of the Texas Health and Safety Code and to provide the Board with a protocol as to how these situations will be addressed in the future.

A Letter of Instruction was sent to a psychological associate for her failure to timely comply with the continuing education requirements as outlined in the Board's rules. The psychological associate was instructed to review Board rule 461.11.

A Letter of Instruction was sent to a psychological associate for her failure to update the Board files as to her current address. The psychological associate was instructed to review Board rule 461.6.

## **Board Orders:**

### **Dallas**

A psychologist was placed under an Agreed Reprimand Order for her failure to accurately state the current requirement of psychologists to keep

and maintain accurate records of services provided and for her failure to clearly establish the fees and financial responsibilities of her patient as early as was feasible. The Board found the psychologist in violation of Board Rule 465.36 (c)(1)(Y)(I) and required that she submit a letter to the Attorney General's office, correcting earlier correspondence in which she misstated the professional standard for keeping records of services.

Under the terms of the Reprimand Order, the psychologist is required to complete a graduate level course on ethics, submit her corrected letter for Board approval and then forward such letter to the Attorney General's office, and reimburse the Board in the amount of \$771.34. The term of the Order is one year.

### **Lubbock**

A psychologist was placed under an Agreed Reprimand Order for her failure to adequately document her services to a party about whom she provided court testimony. The Board found the psychologist in violation of Board rule 465.22. Under the terms of the Order, the psychologist is required to reimburse the Board in the amount of \$1,560.80. The term of the Order is one year.

### **San Antonio**

#### **Rhonda May, Ph.D.**

**Complaint:** The Board received information that Dr. May had abandoned her practice, patients, and records without making provisions for continuity of service or security of documents. The Board opened a complaint against Dr. May and attempted to locate her through various methods, none of which were successful.

**Sanction:** Dr. May's license was temporarily suspended by the Board in February 1997. After an administrative hearing, the Board determined that Dr. May's license should be revoked.

**Effective date:** The effective date of this Order is August 28, 1998.