

PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSING ACT

Part 1 - General Provisions

58-61-101. Title.

This chapter is known as the "Psychologist Licensing Act."

58-61-102. Definitions.

In addition to the definitions in Section 58-1-102, as used in this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the Psychologist Licensing Board created in Section 58-61-201.
- (2) "Client" or "patient" means an individual who consults or is examined or interviewed by a psychologist acting in his professional capacity.
- (3) "Confidential communication" means information, including information obtained by the psychologist's examination of the client or patient, which is:
 - (a) (i) transmitted between the client or patient and a psychologist in the course of that relationship; or
 - (ii) transmitted among the client or patient, the psychologist, and individuals who are participating in the diagnosis or treatment under the direction of the psychologist, including members of the client's or patient's family; and
 - (b) made in confidence, for the diagnosis or treatment of the client or patient by the psychologist, and by a means not intended to be disclosed to third persons other than those individuals:
 - (i) present to further the interest of the client or patient in the consultation, examination, or interview;
 - (ii) reasonably necessary for the transmission of the communications; or
 - (iii) participating in the diagnosis and treatment of the client or patient under the direction of the psychologist.
- (4) "Hypnosis" means, regarding individuals exempted from licensure under this chapter, a process by which one individual induces or assists another individual into a hypnotic state without the use of drugs or other substances and for the purpose of increasing motivation or to assist the individual to alter lifestyles or habits.
- (5) "Individual" means a natural person.
- (6) "Mental health therapist" means an individual licensed under this title as a:
 - (a) physician and surgeon, or osteopathic physician engaged in the practice of mental health therapy;
 - (b) registered psychiatric mental health nurse specialist;
 - (c) psychologist qualified to engage in the practice of mental health therapy;
 - (d) clinical social worker;
 - (e) certified social worker;
 - (f) marriage and family therapist; or
 - (g) professional counselor.
- (7) "Mental illness" means a mental or emotional condition defined in an approved diagnostic and statistical manual for mental disorders generally recognized in the professions of mental health therapy listed under Subsection (6).
- (8) "Practice of mental health therapy" means treatment or prevention of mental illness, including:
 - (a) conducting a professional evaluation of an individual's condition of mental health, mental illness, or emotional disorder;

- (b) establishing a diagnosis in accordance with established written standards generally recognized in the professions of mental health therapy listed under Subsection (6);
 - (c) prescribing a plan for the prevention or treatment of a condition of mental illness or emotional disorder; and
 - (d) engaging in the conduct of professional intervention, including psychotherapy by the application of established methods and procedures generally recognized in the professions of mental health therapy listed under Subsection (6).
- (9) (a) "Practice of psychology" includes:
- (i) the practice of mental health therapy by means of observation, description, evaluation, interpretation, intervention, and treatment to effect modification of human behavior by the application of generally recognized professional psychological principles, methods, and procedures for the purpose of preventing, treating, or eliminating mental or emotion illness or dysfunction, the symptoms of any of these, or maladaptive behavior;
 - (ii) the observation, description, evaluation, interpretation, or modification of human behavior by the application of generally recognized professional principles, methods, or procedures requiring the education, training, and clinical experience of a psychologist, for the purpose of assessing, diagnosing, preventing, or eliminating symptomatic, maladaptive, or undesired behavior and of enhancing interpersonal relationships, work and life adjustment, personal effectiveness, behavioral health, and mental health;
 - (iii) psychological testing and the evaluation or assessment of personal characteristics such as intelligence, personality, abilities, interests, aptitudes, and neuropsychological functioning;
 - (iv) counseling, marriage and family therapy, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, hypnosis, biofeedback, and behavior analysis and therapy;
 - (v) diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders of disability, alcoholism and substance abuse, disorders of habit or conduct, and the psychological aspects of physical illness, accident, injury, or disability; and
 - (vi) psychoeducational evaluation, therapy, remediation, and consultation.
- (b) An individual practicing psychology may provide services to individuals, couples, families, groups of individuals, members of the public, and individuals or groups within organizations or institutions.
- (10) "Unlawful conduct" is as defined in Sections 58-1-501 and 58-61-501.
- (11) "Unprofessional conduct" is as defined in Sections 58-1-501 and 58-61-502, and may be further defined by division rule.

Part 2 - Board

58-61-201. Board.

- (1) There is created the Psychologist Board consisting of four licensed psychologists and one members from the general public.
- (2) The board shall be appointed, serve terms, and be compensated in accordance with Section 58-1-201.
- (3) The duties and responsibilities of the board are under Sections 58-1-202 and 58-1-203. In addition, the board shall:

- (a) designate one of its members on a permanent or rotating basis to assist the division in review of complaints concerning unlawful or unprofessional practice by a licensee in any profession regulated by the board and to advise the division regarding the conduct of investigations of the complaints; and
- (b) disqualify any member from acting as presiding officer in any administrative procedure in which that member has previously reviewed the complaint or advised the division.

Part 3 - Licensing

58-61-301. License required.

- (1) (a) A license is required to engage in the practice of psychology, except as specifically provided in Section 58-1-307.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection 58-1-307(1)(c) an individual shall be certified under this chapter as a psychology resident in order to engage in a residency program of supervised clinical training necessary to meet licensing requirements as a psychologist under this chapter.
- (2) The division shall issue to a person who qualifies under this chapter a license in the classification of:
 - (a) psychologist; or
 - (b) certified psychology resident.

58-61-302. Term of license.

- (1) (a) The division shall issue each license under this chapter in accordance with a two-year renewal cycle established by division rule.
- (b) The division may by rule extend or shorten a renewal cycle by as much as one year to stagger the renewal cycles it administers.
- (2) At the time of renewal the licensee shall show satisfactory evidence of renewal requirements as required under this chapter.
- (3) Each license expires on the expiration date shown on the license unless renewed by the licensee in accordance with Section 58-1-308.

58-61-303. Status of licenses held on the effective date of this chapter.

An individual holding a valid Utah license as a psychologist under any licensing or practice acts in this title in effect immediately prior to July 1, 1994, is on or after July 1, 1994, considered to hold a current license under this chapter in the comparable classification as a psychologist.

58-61-304. Qualifications for licensure by examination or endorsement.

- (1) An applicant for licensure as a psychologist based upon education, clinical training, and examination shall:
 - (a) submit an application on a form provided by the division;
 - (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
 - (c) be of good moral character;
 - (d) produce certified transcripts of credit verifying satisfactory completion of a doctoral degree in psychology that includes specific core course work established by division rule under Section 58-1-203, from an institution of higher education whose doctoral program, at the time the applicant received the doctoral degree, met approval criteria established by division rule made in consultation with the board;

- (e) have completed a minimum of 4,000 hours of psychology training as defined by division rule under Section 58-1-203 in not less than two years and under the supervision of a psychologist supervisor approved by the division in collaboration with the board;
 - (f) to be qualified to engage in mental health therapy, document successful completion of not less than 1,000 hours of supervised training in mental health therapy obtained after completion of a master's level of education in psychology, which training may be included as part of the 4,000 hours of training required in Subsection (1)(e), and for which documented evidence demonstrates not less than one hour of supervision for each 40 hours of supervised training was obtained under the direct personal face to face supervision of a psychologist approved by the division in collaboration with the board;
 - (g) pass the examination requirement established by division rule under Section 58-1-203; and
 - (h) meet with the board, upon request for good cause, for the purpose of evaluating the applicant's qualifications for licensure.
- (2) An applicant for licensure as a psychologist by endorsement based upon licensure in another jurisdiction shall:
- (a) submit an application on a form provided by the division;
 - (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
 - (c) be of good moral character and professional standing, and not have any disciplinary action pending or in effect against the applicant's psychologist license in any jurisdiction;
 - (d) have passed the Utah Psychologist Law and Ethics Examination established by division rule;
 - (e) provide satisfactory evidence the applicant is currently licensed in another state, district, or territory of the United States, or in any other jurisdiction approved by the division in collaboration with the board;
 - (f) provide satisfactory evidence the applicant has actively practiced psychology in that jurisdiction for not less than 2,000 hours or one year, whichever is greater;
 - (g) provide satisfactory evidence that:
 - (i) the education, supervised experience, examination, and all other requirements for licensure in that jurisdiction at the time the applicant obtained licensure were substantially equivalent to the licensure requirements for a psychologist in Utah at the time the applicant obtained licensure in the other jurisdiction; or
 - (ii) the applicant is:
 - (A) a current holder of diplomate status in good standing from the American Board of Professional Psychology;
 - (B) currently credentialed as a health service provider in psychology by the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology; or
 - (C) currently holds a Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) granted by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards; and
 - (h) meet with the board, upon request for good cause, for the purpose of evaluating the applicant's qualifications for licensure.

- (3) (a) An applicant for certification as a psychology resident shall comply with the provisions of Subsections (1)(a), (b), (c), (d), and (h).
- (b) (i) An individual's certification as a psychology resident is limited to the period of time necessary to complete clinical training as described in Subsections (1)(e) and (f) and extends not more than one year from the date the minimum requirement for training is completed, unless the individual presents satisfactory evidence to the division and the Psychologist Licensing Board that the individual is making reasonable progress toward passing the qualifying examination or is otherwise on a course reasonably expected to lead to licensure as a psychologist.
- (ii) The period of time under Subsection (3)(b)(i) may not exceed two years past the date the minimum supervised clinical training requirement has been completed.

58-61-305. Qualifications for admission to examination.

All applicants for admission to any examination qualifying an individual for licensure under this chapter shall:

- (1) submit an application on a form provided by the division;
- (2) pay the fee established for the examination; and
- (3) certify under penalty of perjury as evidenced by notarized signature on the application for admission to the examination that the applicant:
 - (a) has completed the education requirement under this chapter and been awarded the earned degree required for licensure; and
 - (b) has successfully completed the supervised training required under this chapter for licensure.

58-61-306. Continuing education.

By rule made under Section 58-1-203, the division may establish a continuing education requirement as a condition for renewal of a license under this chapter upon finding continuing education is necessary to reasonably protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

58-61-307. Exemptions from licensure.

- (1) Except as modified in Section 58-61-301, the exemptions from licensure in Section 58-1-307 apply to this chapter.
- (2) In addition to the exemptions from licensure in Section 58-1-307, the following when practicing within the scope of the license held, may engage in acts included in the definition of practice as a psychologist, subject to the stated circumstances and limitations, without being licensed under this chapter:
 - (a) a physician and surgeon or osteopathic physician licensed under Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act, or Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act;
 - (b) a registered psychiatric mental health nurse specialist licensed under Chapter 31, Nurse Practice Act;
 - (c) a recognized member of the clergy while functioning in his ministerial capacity as long as he does not represent himself as or use the title of psychologist;
 - (d) an individual who is offering expert testimony in any proceeding before a court, administrative hearing, deposition upon the order of any court or other body having power to order the deposition, or proceedings before any master, referee, or alternative dispute resolution provider;
 - (e) an individual engaged in performing hypnosis who is not licensed under

this title in a profession which includes hypnosis in its scope of practice, and who:

- (i) (A) induces a hypnotic state in a client for the purpose of increasing motivation or altering lifestyles or habits, such as eating or smoking, through hypnosis;
- (B) consults with a client to determine current motivation and behavior patterns;
- (C) prepares the client to enter hypnotic states by explaining how hypnosis works and what the client will experience;
- (D) tests clients to determine degrees of suggestibility;
- (E) applies hypnotic techniques based on interpretation of consultation results and analysis of client's motivation and behavior patterns; and
- (F) trains clients in self-hypnosis conditioning;
- (ii) may not:
 - (A) engage in the practice of mental health therapy;
 - (B) represent himself using the title of a license classification in Subsection 58-60-102(5); or
 - (C) use hypnosis with or treat a medical, psychological, or dental condition defined in generally recognized diagnostic and statistical manuals of medical, psychological, or dental disorders;
- (f) an individual's exemption from licensure under Subsection 58-1-307(1)(b) terminates when the student's training is no longer supervised by qualified faculty or staff and the activities are no longer a defined part of the degree program;
- (g) an individual holding an earned doctoral degree in psychology who is employed by an accredited institution of higher education and who conducts research and teaches in that individual's professional field, but only if the individual does not engage in providing delivery or supervision of professional services regulated under this chapter to individuals or groups regardless of whether there is compensation for the services;
- (h) any individual who was employed as a psychologist by a state, county, or municipal agency or other political subdivision of the state prior to July 1, 1981, and who subsequently has maintained employment as a psychologist in the same state, county, or municipal agency or other political subdivision while engaged in the performance of his official duties for that agency or political subdivision;
- (i) an individual certified as a school psychologist under Section 53A-6-104:
 - (i) may represent himself as and use the terms "school psychologist" or "certified school psychologist"; and
 - (ii) is restricted in his practice to employment within settings authorized by the State Board of Education; and
- (j) an individual providing advice or counsel to another individual in a setting of their association as friends or relatives and in a nonprofessional and noncommercial relationship, if there is no compensation paid for the advice or counsel.

58-61-308. Scope of practice - Limitations.

- (1) A psychologist may engage in all acts and practices defined as the practice of psychology without supervision, in private and independent practice, or as an employee of another person, limited only by the licensee's education, training, and competence.

- (2) An individual certified as a psychology resident may engage in all acts and practices defined as the practice of psychology only under conditions of employment as a psychology resident and under the supervision of a licensed psychologist who is an approved psychology training supervisor as defined by division rule. A certified psychology resident shall not engage in the independent practice of psychology.

Part 4 - License Denial and Discipline

58-61-401. Grounds for action regarding license - Disciplinary proceedings.

The division's grounds for refusing to issue a license to an applicant, for refusing to renew the license of a licensee, for revoking, suspending, restricting, or placing on probation the license of a licensee, for issuing a public or private reprimand to a licensee, and for issuance a cease and desist order are under Section 58-1-401.

Part 5 - Penalties

58-61-501. Unlawful conduct.

As used in this chapter, "unlawful conduct" includes:

- (1) practice of psychology unless licensed as a psychologist or certified psychology resident under this chapter or exempted from licensure under this title;
- (2) practice of mental health therapy by a licensed psychologist who has not acceptably documented to the division his completion of the supervised training in psychotherapy required under Subsection 58-61-304(1)(f); or
- (3) representing oneself or using the title of psychologist, or certified psychology resident unless currently licensed under this chapter.

58-61-502. Unprofessional conduct.

- (1) As used in this chapter, "unprofessional conduct" includes:
 - (a) using or employing the services of any individual to assist a licensee in any manner not in accordance with the generally recognized practices, standards, or ethics of the profession for which the individual is licensed, or the laws of the state;
 - (b) failure to confine practice conduct to those acts or practices:
 - (i) in which the individual is competent by education, training, and experience within limits of education, training, and experience; and
 - (ii) which are within applicable scope of practice laws of this chapter; and
 - (c) disclosing or refusing to disclose any confidential communication under Section 58-61-602.
- (2) "Unprofessional conduct" under this chapter may be further defined by division rule.

58-61-503. Penalty for unlawful conduct.

An individual who commits any act of unlawful conduct as defined in:

- (1) Subsection 58-61-501(1) or (2) is guilty of a third degree felony; or
- (2) Subsection 58-61-501(3) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

58-61-504. Reporting of unprofessional or unlawful conduct - Immunity from liability.

- (1) Upon learning of an act of unlawful or unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 58-61-102 by a person licensed under this chapter or an individual not licensed under this chapter and engaged in acts or practices regulated under this chapter, that results in disciplinary action by a licensed health care facility, professional practice group, or professional society, or that results in a significant adverse impact upon the public health, safety, or welfare, the following shall report the conduct in writing to the division within ten days after learning of the disciplinary action or the conduct unless the individual or person knows it has been reported:
 - (a) a licensed health care facility or organization in which an individual licensed under this chapter engaged in practice;
 - (b) an individual licensed under this chapter; and
 - (c) a professional society or organization whose membership is individuals licensed under this chapter and which has the authority to discipline or expel a member for acts of unprofessional conduct or unlawful conduct.
- (2) Any individual reporting acts of unprofessional or unlawful conduct by an individual licensed under this chapter is immune from liability arising out of the disclosure to the extent the individual furnishes the information in good faith and without malice.

Part 6 - Evidentiary Privilege and Confidentiality

58-61-601. Evidentiary privilege.

Evidentiary privilege for psychologists regarding admissibility of any confidential communication in administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings is in accordance with Rule 506 of the Utah Rules of Evidence.

58-61-602. Confidentiality - Exemptions.

- (1) A psychologist under this chapter may not disclose any confidential communication with a client or patient without the express consent of:
 - (a) the client or patient;
 - (b) the parent or legal guardian of a minor client or patient; or
 - (c) the authorized agent of a client or patient.
- (2) A psychologist under this chapter is not subject to Subsection (1) if:
 - (a) the psychologist is permitted or required by state or federal law, rule, regulation, or order to report or disclose any confidential communication, including:
 - (i) reporting under Title 62A, Chapter 3, Part 3, Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult;
 - (ii) reporting under Title 62A, Chapter 4a, Part 4, Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting Requirements;
 - (iii) reporting under Title 78B Chapter 3, Part 5, Limitation of Therapist's Duty to Warn; or
 - (iv) reporting of a communicable disease as required under Section 26-6-6;
 - (b) the disclosure is part of an administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding and is made under an exemption from evidentiary privilege under Rule 506, Utah Rules of Evidence; or
 - (c) the disclosure is made under a generally recognized professional or ethical standard that authorizes or requires the disclosure

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