

PES FAQs:

- Can a PES provide a diagnosis within their scope of practice?

Yes, it is within the scope of practice of a licensed PES to conduct public and private sector psycho-educational assessments of educational, personal and social needs of children and adolescents, to interpret data and diagnose, treat, evaluate, and determine individual needs and interventions, for referral to appropriate specialists and supportive services, to provide group and individual educational counseling for problems of learning, school adjustment and academic performance, or to advise or consult with a client or clients regarding a complaint within the PES scope of practice. A licensed PES practices independently, and oversight of a licensed PES by another licensed professional is not required. See S.C. Code Sec. 40-75-520(A), (A)(1), (2), (5) and (B).

- What is an independent evaluator as referenced in S.C. Code Ann. 40-75-520(C)(3)?

An independent evaluator, as referenced in this code section, is a qualified examiner who provides the specific independent educational evaluation (IEE) that is required by the South Carolina Department of Education pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act to determine if a child has a disability and is therefore entitled to having special education and related services provided to them by their school district. See 34 C.F.R. §300.306, §300.800, §300.121, §300.502.

In compliance with the procedural safeguard requirements of 34 C.F.R. §300.121 and §300.502, S.C. Code Ann. § 40-75-520(C)(3) provides that the PES may not provide a private IEE to a student living within the school district where the PES is a permanent hire of that school district. Other than in that circumstance, a PES is qualified to provide a public or private IEE.

- Can a PES provide evaluations within their scope of practice other than an IEE?

Yes, as noted in the FAQ above, a licensed PES can also within the scope of their practice, provide private and public sector psycho-educational evaluations and assessments for diagnostic purposes and to recommend and/or provide appropriate interventions, treatments, counseling, and/or referrals.