

## S.C. Board of Examiners in Psychology Statement Regarding Medication

As states begin to pass legislation granting psychologists prescription privileges, some psychologists in South Carolina have begun to question what they can and can't do with their clients when having discussions regarding medications. The answer to this question is much clearer than some would suppose. There are regulations that pertain to the practice of psychology in our state. On page 7 (100-4,C) of the regulations booklet, it succinctly states that:

### *C. Competence:*

*(1) Limits on practice. A psychologist shall limit practice and supervision to the area(s) of competence in which proficiency has been gained through education, training and experience as demonstrated to the Board and as reflected in the licensure granted by the Board and in the specialty designation(s) assigned by the Board to the psychologist (emphasis added).*

Frequently, psychologists through education, experience, and training have become knowledgeable of medications commonly used to treat specific disorders. However, psychologists do not currently have prescriptive privileges in South Carolina and we must defer to appropriately licensed health professionals any recommendations regarding specific medications or dosages.

The Board considers this a serious matter and will be alert to any infractions of the practice act.

In summary, as psychologists, we are licensed to practice within the boundaries of our licensing regulations. We must follow these regulations, and by doing so we leave no chance of providing services beyond our levels of training and competence.