

Visit the Psychology Board's Website

The Psychology Board's website is a useful tool that keeps you up to date on what is happening in your profession. The site contains a wealth of information and current updates regarding the practice of psychology in South Carolina, and the "Site Map" makes it very user friendly.

Some of the site's links contain information regarding disciplinary actions taken by the Board, continuing education, online services, Board information, licensure, related links and frequently asked questions. You can also notify the Board of an address change, find out when Board meetings are scheduled and find out information about initial licensure for examination. At renewal time, you will find information on how to renew, what fees are due, and what continuing education is required. The next biennial renewal deadline is Nov. 30, 2011.

The site also has a "Board News" feature for the newest information. We hope you visit the site frequently at: www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/psychology.

Psychology Board Statute Chapter 55, Regulations Chapter 100 and the Confidentiality Statute

All licensees are required to know the statutes and regulations governing, the practice of psychology in South Carolina. Chapter 55, Chapter 100 and the Confidentiality Statute can be found on the Psychology Board website at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/psychology.

2009 Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings

By Board Chair, Michael A. Kollar, Ed.D.



You would have to have been living in a hermetically sealed cave during the last 10 years to not know that the majority of unprofessional conduct reports to state boards of psychology have been in some way connected to child custody or parental fitness evaluations. In light of the frequency of reports to psychology boards, one would hope that psychologists would "take care to acquire sufficient knowledge, skill, experience, and education prior to conducting a child custody evaluation." (II, 4, APA Guidelines).

It seems that some psychologists have either neglected to read earlier published guidelines, current guidelines, or having read these guidelines, have chosen to ignore entire sections. Please remember that whenever a psychologist conducts a psychological evaluation and makes statements as to

whether or not a person is a "good mother," a "good father," or is capable of "making sound parental decisions," that psychologists must demonstrate that he/she has:

- 1) Acquired sufficient knowledge, skill, experience, training, and education prior to conducting a child custody evaluation in family law proceedings.
- 2) Remained impartial.
- 3) Maintained nondiscriminatory evaluation practices.
- 4) Avoided multiple relationships.
- 5) Read and understood with clarity all court orders in order to ascertain the scope, nature, and limitations of his/her role.
- 6) Employed multiple methods of data collection; for example, making contact with members of the extended family, friends, acquaintances, school officials, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, etc., to verify information provided during interviews with the parents.

In summary, if you are currently conducting custody evaluations or parental fitness assessments, I strongly encourage you to read and re-read APA's Guidelines for Conducting Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings approved by the APA Council of Representatives in February 2009, and make it a practice to ask yourself, "Am I following the guidelines, have I overreached, have I verified information through multiple sources, should I have a colleague read my finished work product, and have I made a declaration that I can't support with testing data, etc.

I hope this article has been helpful. We on the Board truly believe that an "ounce of prevention is significantly worth more than the pound of cure" associated with being reported to the Board.

Formal Complaints and IRC Review

By Paul L. Doerring, Consulting Psychologist to the Board and Member of Investigative Review Committee

During the past few months of dealing with complaints sent to the Investigative Review Committee (IRC) of our Psychology Board, there appeared to be a notable number of complaints which left the impression that the psychologist might have been lacking a degree of appropriate concern for the client, but not to a degree where that could have formed a basis for a formal complaint. Granted, it is unthinkable that a psychologist would be intentionally negligent in this area. However, let's be real. Most of us have encountered disagreeable clients who, for whatever reason, make compassion on our part difficult.

I wish I could recover the article, but believe I read where psychologists who were reliably compassionate and tuned in were less likely to face formal complaints. All I can state with certainty is that the article impressed me to the degree where I find myself thinking about it periodically. Does this recollection remobilize my client caring capacity? I'm not certain, but I am impressed enough to want to share it with our readers.

Paul L. Doerring Ph.D.

All Employers Must Comply with S.C. Immigration Act by July 1, 2010

The "South Carolina Illegal Immigration Reform Act" that was signed into law by Governor Mark Sanford on June 4, 2008 will soon be applicable to all businesses in South Carolina regardless of the number of employees.

Compliance with this law began July 1, 2009, for private employers who employ 100



or more employees. For private employers who employ less than 100 employees, the compliance date is July 1, 2010.

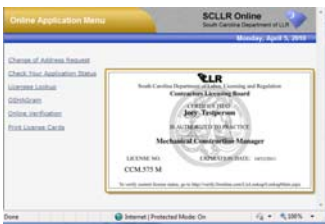
The law requires all employers to verify the legal status of new employees and prohibits employment of any worker who is not legally in this country and authorized to work. The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Office of Immigrant Worker Compliance is charged with investigating complaints and conducting random audits of private employers to assure compliance. Failure to comply can result in severe monetary penalties and revocation of an employer's right to operate their business.

During the first year, LLR investigators found that most large employers (more than 100 workers) were in compliance with the law. When violations were found they generally were because

- employers who were using E-Verify to verify their employees, did not do so within the five-day timeframe required by the law.
- employers who were using driver's licenses to verify employees, did so using a driver's license from a state not on the approved list.

For more information on the law, visit www.llronline.com/immigration/.

Wallet Cards are Available for LLR Licensees



The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) has heard from many licensees that they would like a wallet card identifying them as licensed in their chosen occupation or profession, and we listened.

Licensees now have the capability through LLR's Website to download and print a wallet card as a courtesy. The cards can be printed from your printer at your convenience, and you will need Adobe Reader installed on your PC to view and print the card. For best results, use card stock instead of copy paper to print a more durable card.

Instructions to Print Your Wallet Card

- Go to <https://verify.llronline.com>.
- Click on the "Print License Card" link on the left of the screen.
- Login with your username and password or last five digits of SSN and last name/company name.
- Click Login.
- A list of all active licenses will appear on screen.
- Click the PDF icon to the right for the license you want to print.
- The wallet card will open in a new Adobe Reader window.
- Print the wallet card.
- Logout.