

Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

November 9, 2017 Newsletter

Update Regarding Providers Seeking to Practice in Disaster Areas

Since the onset of the devastation brought to Texas by Hurricane Harvey, the heroic response of psychologists, psychological associates, and licensed specialists in school psychology in Texas and beyond has been outstanding. Since August 30, 2017, the Board has issued 75 emergency temporary licenses to out-of-state providers and countless licensees have volunteered to render aid. Thank you to all mental health providers who have volunteered or offered to help!

Do you know an out-of-state psychologist, psychological associate, or specialist in school psychology that would like to help with the Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts? Do you have questions about how those individuals may legally practice in Texas? If so, please share the following with those individuals.

Separate and apart from the Board's emergency temporary license¹, an out-of-state psychologist, psychological associate, or specialists in school psychology may practice in Texas for the purpose of rendering aid, provided the individual holds a current license or certification in good standing* in his or her home state. See Section [418.171](#) of the Government Code.

Therefore, any out-of-state psychologist, psychological associate, or specialists in school psychology with a license or certification in good standing* is not required to hold a Texas license in order to practice psychology as part of a disaster relief effort in any of those counties identified in the Governor's disaster declaration. It should be noted however, that this limited authority to practice during a declared disaster terminates upon the lifting or expiration of the Governor's disaster declaration.

**Good standing means there is not current disciplinary action on your state psychology license(s).*

The Board does ask that any out-of-state psychologist, psychological associate, or specialists in school psychology planning to practice under this exception notify the Board prior to delivering services. When notifying the Board, please include your name, home state, licensure type and number, and the location where services will be provided. Please send notifications by email to Deputy.ED@tsbep.texas.gov.

The Board is not soliciting volunteers, but licensees wishing to volunteer may contact the following to inquire about volunteer needs:

1. [Texas Disaster Volunteer Registry](#)
2. [The American Red Cross](#)

¹ Emergency temporary licenses issued by the agency remain valid for 120 days, or until the Governor's disaster declaration is lifted or expires.

3. [Volunteer Houston](#)
4. [Texas Gulf Coast Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster](#)
5. [Texas Psychological Association](#)
6. [Texas Association of School Psychologists](#)

The Board would also encourage all of its licensees to explore registering with the [Texas Disaster Volunteer Registry](#), the [Medical Reserve Corps](#), or the [Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals](#). Advance registration and preparation will not only reduce the administrative burden of verifying volunteers' identity and credentials during a disaster, but more importantly, it will help ensure your professional skills are brought to bear on those affected by the disaster as quickly as possible.

**TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS RATIFIED AT THE
AUGUST 17, 2017 BOARD MEETING**

NAME	CITY	NATURE/INFRACTION	DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Flynn, Michael Howard, Ph.D.	Fort Worth	Failed to state reservations or limitations in a recommendation.	Administrative penalty.
Gutierrez, Charles, Ph.D.	San Antonio	Failed to report a disciplinary action to the Board.	Administrative penalty.
Jeffries, Shawn Kahill, Ph.D.	Bedford	Alleged to have engaged in a sexual relationship with a client.	Resigned in lieu of adjudication.
Nelson, Dennis, Ph.D.	New Caney	Alleged to have engaged in sexual impropriety and a sexual relationship with a patient.	Resigned in lieu of adjudication.
Pope, Brian E., Ph.D.	Arlington	Used outdated testing materials for the basis of decisions and recommendations for clients.	Probated suspension, administrative penalty, and practice limitations.
Raedy, Veronica Megan, M.S.	Austin	Failed to obtain the minimum required professional development hours for renewal and failed to cooperate with a Board investigation.	Administrative penalty.

**TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS RATIFIED AT THE
NOVEMBER 9, 2017 BOARD MEETING**

NAME	CITY	NATURE/INFRACTION	DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Ramos, Vincent, Ph.D.	Celina	The Wisconsin Psychology Examining Board entered a final disciplinary decision and order against the licensee.	Probated suspension, administrative penalty, and supervision restrictions.
Tartaro, Jessica Theresa, Ph.D.	Dallas	Alleged to have engaged in a dual relationship with a patient, failed to recognize the imbalance of power the licensee had over a patient, and practiced with a delinquent license.	Resigned in lieu of adjudication.