



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION  
2017-777A

Teanne Rose, Executive Officer  
State Board of Examiners of Psychologists  
421 NW 13th Street, Ste. 180  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

November 6, 2017

Dear Executive Officer Rose:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding action that the Board of Examiners of Psychologists intends to take in regard to Applicant J.D. In connection with the license application, Applicant's former supervisor advised the Board that Applicant engaged in a dual relationship while working as a registered psychological assistant at a treatment program for parolees. When asked, Applicant acknowledged soliciting bids for construction work from a program client. The application also misrepresented Applicant as a "forensic psychologist" despite Applicant not being a licensed psychologist. The Board proposes to deny the application.

The Psychologists Licensing Act authorizes the Board to issue and "deny . . . licenses for the practice of psychology in this state," and to "[d]evelop and promulgate . . . rules and regulations" for that purpose. 59 O.S.Supp.2016, § 1352.1(2), (3), (8). By rule, the Board "may inquire into an applicant's professional ethical character in determining whether an applicant has met the requirements to become licensed as a psychologist." OAC 575:10-1-10(e). The Board's rules incorporate the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct ("APA Code"). *See id.* 575:10-1-10(a). The APA Code prohibits multiple relationships (APA 3.05), conflicts of interest (APA 3.06), exploitative relationships (APA 3.08), and false and deceptive statements (APA 5.01). The Board may reasonably believe that the ethical concerns raised by Applicant's conduct warrant denial of the application.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State's policy that psychologists adhere to minimum standards of professionalism.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hunter".

MIKE HUNTER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Chaffin".

RYAN CHAFFIN  
DEPUTY CHIEF – ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL