



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2018-173A

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

May 24, 2018

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 pursuant to a consent order in case number BC 17-5. The licensee was alleged to have breached confidentiality and reported statements made by a patient to federal authorities, when no threats were made to any individual. The patient was later contacted and interviewed by federal authorities on several occasions, even after it was determined the patient was not a threat. The Board proposes to place the licensee on probation for one year. During the probation, the licensee must complete 12 hours of continuing education, complete a scholarly paper, and undergo 18 hours of supervision. The licensee must also pay an administrative penalty of \$1,000 and reimburse the Board \$1,500 for costs of investigating and prosecuting the complaint. If these requirements are not completed, the license will be suspended.

The Psychologists Licensing Act empowers the Board to “suspend, place on probation, require remediation, revoke any license to practice psychology, impose an administrative fine . . . or assess reasonable costs . . . whenever . . . the psychologist has engaged in any . . . [v]iolation of the code of ethics adopted in the rules and regulations of the Board.” 59 O.S.Supp.2017, § 1370(B)(15). The Board has adopted the “Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct” and the “ASPPB Code of Conduct.” OAC 575:10-1-10(a), (b). The alleged conduct constitutes violations of several sections of each code. The Board may reasonably believe that the proposed action is necessary to deter future violations.

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 the proposed action advances the State's policy to protect the public by ensuring that psychologists comply with minimum conduct requirements.



MIKE HUNTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA



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