

Motion to Clarify Extenders Issue:

MM: LL,2ND;JSH: To amend the motion of December 8, 2000 to clarify AUse of Psychological Evaluation Extenders@: 1). Arkansas Code Annotated, Chapter 97, Section 17-97-102 describes the practice of psychologists and psychological examiners as involving Athe application of recognized principles, methods, and procedures of the science and profession of psychology such as interviewing or administering and interpreting test of mental abilities, aptitudes, interests, and personality characteristics for such purposes as psychological evaluation.@ 2). Furthermore, Section (a) (2) thereof defines procedures of psychological practice to include neuropsychological evaluations, overall personality appraisal, and psychological evaluation for educational or vocational selection or placement. Section 17-97-102 of Chapter 97 defines the practice of psychology, while Section 17-97-307 restricts usage of the psychological, psychologist, and psychology titles. The only exceptions regarding psychological practices are described in statutes 17-97-103 and 17-97-104. Current ABEP Rule 2.1.D., defines principles, methods, and procedures of the science of psychology to Ainclude those techniques used in evaluating and/or changing behavior, mental processes, and/or interpersonal relations.@ Exemptions for psychology practice are made for teachers and counselors in recognized schools, clergymen, practitioners of medicine or social workers in their professional roles. Other exemptions are for Apsychologist supervised@ students of psychology, psychological interns in their internship roles and other persons preparing for the profession of psychological examiner or psychologist as part of training as specified in Statutes 17-97-302 and 17-97-303. Section 17-97-104 describes an exception for employees of certain state agencies when state agencies began to be required to employ individuals licensed by the Board for psychology practice. They were to have master=s degrees, been employed for more than seven years in 1979, and be within twelve years of retirement. Unlicensed employees of The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences are also exempted if continuously employed for at least (3) years prior to July 1, 1979 as long as services provided are under the immediate supervision of a licensed psychologist employed by UAMS. 3). Chapter 97, Section 17-97-104 (C) states its purpose and intent is Ato require all psychological service providers, except as specifically otherwise provided in this section, to conform to the licensing requirements of this chapter and thereby to protect the public=s health and welfare by ensuring competence in the delivery of those services.@ 4).The use of non-licensed extenders or technicians to perform Atechniques used in evaluating and/or changing behavior or mental process= as described in ABEP Rule 2.1.D., is not allowed by Arkansas Statutes, except as specifically exempted. Administering, proctoring, or scoring assessment instruments that include self report inventories in their various forms and formats, group administered tests, rating scales, screening instruments which do not require psychoeducational behavior observations, or other procedures that constitute the provision of psychological services.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carries.