



Email Update: August 2018

Welcome to the most recent update from NSBEP. In this format of communication with registrants, the Board strives to provide updates on subjects of interest to registrants of the Board.

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Registrar's Notes: Social Media

As Registrar, I get exposed to a lot of information about a wide variety of topics related to the practice of psychology. Frequently, I learn things that I think would be helpful for psychologists who are seeking to reduce their risk of negative feedback, or even a complaint to the Board.

I recently came across the guidelines of the New Zealand Psychologists Board regarding social media. As with most North American jurisdictions, NSBEP has not yet developed guidelines for the use of social media specifically, although we have developed guidelines for the use of technology.

(http://www.nsbep.org/downloads/use_of_technology_by_psychologists.pdf) and we are following the work of the ASPPB Social Media Task Force.

With respect to the New Zealand document, much of it certainly appears to be consistent with NSBEP standards and ethical principles. One section which caught my attention dealt with the responsibilities assumed by a psychologist who looks up a client on social media. The New Zealand article cites section 1.6.4 of their code of ethics which is identical to the CPA Code section "1.37 Seek and collect only information that is germane to the purpose(s) for which consent has been obtained." The New Zealand guidelines go on to note: "The psychologist who does an online search of their client without consent may breach that client's privacy, violate their autonomy and dignity, and infringe on the trust that is integral to the relationship. This may create ethical dilemmas about what to do with the information gained." There is certainly a lot to think about here, even in these few statements. If you would like to reflect on many of the potential ethical and professional issues related to the use of social media, this document is not a bad starting point and reviewing it could be a potential continuing competency activity as well! However, it should go without saying that while the New Zealand document may be helpful in getting you thinking about ethical issues related to social media, in your practice you need to follow NSBEP standards, guidelines and ethics. You can access

the New Zealand guidelines at

http://www.psychologistsboard.org.nz/cms_show_download.php?id=278

Gordon Butler, Ph.D.

Registrar

Guidance Document: Working with Children and Adolescents

The following information is provided by the Board in order to offer guidance to psychologist working with children and adolescents, especially when there are issues related to custody arrangements.

[Click here to access this NSBEP document](#)

NSBEP Website and Archive of Past Email Communications from NSBEP

Registrants are always encouraged to make use of the website to keep track of any developments and to perform various tasks. For instance, the website provides access to various legislation, standards and additional guidelines NSBEP has established to direct practice along with news releases. We have different versions of "Frequently Asked Questions" to serve the various requirements of visitors to our site. We regularly add new content to these and other sections, when common questions arise.

We would like to provide a reminder that the website includes an archive of past Email Updates from NSBEP to Registrants. To access such information, please see the [Information for Registrants Section](#) of the website.

The NSBEP Directory of Psychologists is available from the website. Such information can be helpful for the public and other professionals. Please ensure that your information is accurate.

The Board site offers a Registrant Portal, which allows registrants to perform a variety of self-serve functions. In addition to renewing your registration, you can update your contact information on file with NSBEP or update your Psychological Practice Profile as required.

You can also access a Confirmation of Registration document that you can save to your computer and/or print off if you wish to share it with others to verify your registration, e.g., an employer, insurance companies, agencies, etc. This document confirms that a psychologist's registration has been renewed and states the current year of registration.

You can return to this portal at any time in future, if you wish to obtain another Confirmation of Registration, update your contact information or psychological practice profile, or even pay a miscellaneous fee (e.g., paying an oral exam fee, reinstatement fee, etc.).

To get started with any of the self-serve functions, visit nsbep.org and click on "Registrant Login" in the upper right hand screen.

If you have any suggestions about how we can improve the website, or provide additional information, please feel free to contact Matthew Wagner, Assistant Registrar.

Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act

As noted in previous email updates, the Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act and Regulations came into force on December 28th.

Physicians and registered psychologists are able to complete capacity assessments. Other health professionals, specifically, nurse practitioners or registered nurses,

occupational therapists, and social workers will be able to conduct these assessments once they have completed the specified training.

Information on the *Act* and the duties and responsibilities of representatives, including guides and video resources, is available on the website of the Public Trustee's Office, at: <https://novascotia.ca/just/pto/adult-capacity-decision.asp>

For the regulations, visit:

<https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/rxaa-l.htm#acdm>

The Cross-departmental Working Group on the Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act has informed us that the wording of sections 5, 9, and 11 of the Capacity Assessment Report has been revised slightly to more closely align with the language of the Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act and Regulations. A new section 15 has also been added to ensure that capacity assessors know that if the adult being assessed indicates any preference as to who should or should not be appointed as the representative, that this information should be included in the Capacity Assessment Report (as per section 19(d) of the Act).

The meaning of the questions posed in the revised sections of the Capacity Assessment Report has not changed. The revisions provide further clarity as to their meaning. As such, capacity assessments carried out to date using the original version of the Capacity Assessment Report form should not need to be re-conducted. The revised Capacity Assessment Report form is attached for ease of your reference and is now also available online at: <https://novascotia.ca/just/pto/adult-capacity-decision.asp> The old form has been removed.

Public Consultation for the 6th Revision of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) Accreditation Standards

The CPA Accreditation Panel for Doctoral Programs and Internships in Professional Psychology has begun a process of public consultation for the purpose of revising the *Accreditation Standards and Procedures for Doctoral Programs and Internships in Professional Psychology*. The last revision took place in 2011. The CPA Accreditation requirements are referenced in the Board Registration Requirements and are an integral part of the Board registration process, at all levels.

The CPA Accreditation Panel is currently seeking feedback from all members of the community regarding the Standards. If you wish to provide comments to CPA they are being accepted through a [Public Consultation Survey](#).

According to CPA, this survey is part of a multi-step revision process. Once this survey closes, the results will be integrated into a draft revision of the Standards by a committee overseen by the CPA's Accreditation Panel. That draft will then be circulated to the training community for further feedback which will be integrated into a second draft. The feedback process will continue until both the Panel and majority of the training community are satisfied with the revisions. Once this occurs, a final draft will be submitted to the CPA Board of Directors for approval; the Board may then approve it as proposed or request further revisions. The Accreditation Panel anticipates that the 6th revision will be completed by June 2020.

Further information about the survey or the Accreditation Standards review process may be obtained from Dr. Stewart Madon, CPA Registrar of Accreditation at accreditation@cpa.ca or 1-888-472-0657 ext. 333.

Link to download the current revision of the Standards (2011):

https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Accreditation/Accreditation_2011.pdf

Survey Link English:

<https://web2.cpa.ca/membersurveys/index.php/891379?1ang=en>

NSBEP Elections

NSBEP has begun the work of drafting regulations for the first round of elections. We prepared a general overview of how the elections might look and sought feedback from APNS and our Registrants about these ideas and any thoughts or suggestions that might be important to include. We realize that the summer months can present challenges in getting work done, and we would like to thank all those who provided feedback.

The first NSBEP elections are required to take place by October 16th of this year. Our proposed regulations have a “lead-in” time of 3 months for an election to allow sufficient time for nominations proper notifications. The timeline for our first election will necessarily be quite compressed given the October 16 deadline. We are currently exploring whether an extension to this deadline is possible to allow time to complete our consultations, draft the regulations and provide sufficient time for nominations and notification of the election. When the time comes, registrants will have the opportunity to vote electronically and will be provided with more information prior to the election.

Registrants interested in seeking election or nominating others to run in the first NSBEP election are encouraged to start thinking about doing so at this time. In the upcoming election, two Board member positions will be subject to election in 2018. When the regulations are in place, the NSBEP will formally seek nominations and there will be an opportunity for each nominee to provide a biographical statement for distribution in the election process. At the time of preparing this email, the proposed qualifications for Nominees include: Registered Psychologists who have been fully registered for a minimum of 5 years; have a minimum of 1 year experience as a NSBEP Board Supervisor; and are in good standing, with no disciplinary actions over the past 6 years. Nominees must be nominated by 2 Registered Psychologists. (Note: These qualifications are subject to change pending review of feedback and drafting of the final regulations).

Assisting with Supervision, Oral Examinations and Transfer Interviews

The Board would like to invite all registered psychologists to consider volunteering to help the Board and the profession by working with the NSBEP. For instance, consider helping with any or all of the following activities: conducting oral exams / transfer interviews and providing supervision.

In keeping with Standard IV.4 of the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists, and the NSBEP Continuing Competence Program, working in these capacities provides an excellent way to contribute to the continuing education and the professional and scientific growth of self and colleagues.

Oral Examinations & Transfer Interviews

Oral Examinations are conducted as candidates take the final steps towards Registration. The Oral Examination provides an opportunity for a face-to-face interaction between examiners and examinees to discuss areas of practice, professional behaviour and ethical dilemmas, and to assess the examinee's understanding of the core competencies required for psychological practice, as well as the meaning of registration and the position of psychology as a profession.

Transfer Interviews are held for psychologists who are registered in another jurisdiction and are eligible to transfer based on their full registration in another jurisdiction and their meeting certain criteria. These interviews do not result in a pass or fail but do focus on ethical practice and local jurisprudence issues. At times, the Transfer Interview Committee might recommend that a condition be added to a psychologist's registration. An example of a condition would be completing supervision for a period of time.

Supervision

The purposes of candidate register supervision are to:

To monitor the performance of candidates in the core competency areas to ensure standards are being met;

To provide opportunities for candidates to further develop their skills, knowledge, professional attitudes, and sound professional judgment.

Psychologists can act as a Supervisor for the entire duration of the candidacy period or they may choose to do so for a limited period of time.

As mentioned, there are times when supervision might be required for a registered psychologist. For instance, if a candidate has passed an oral exam with conditions, they may be registered with a condition requiring him/her to undergo an additional period of supervision to remediate concerns identified by the oral exam committee. In some instances, supervision may be required for a psychologist who has transferred from another jurisdiction.

Those who have been a Registered Psychologist for two years are eligible to volunteer to serve as a NSBEP Supervisor. The NSBEP provides Continuing Competence credits for registered psychologists acting as a NSBEP Supervisor.

The NSBEP encourages psychologists to consider becoming involved with the work of the Board. To obtain more information, or to volunteer for one of these roles, please contact Matthew Wagner, Assistant Registrar.

Convocation Requirements

Previous advice to NSBEP from legal counsel was that the Psychologists Act required applicants to “possess” their degree in order to be registered. The opinion was that the Board had to wait until the university had awarded the degree by way of convocation and did not have any discretion to waive this requirement.

This matter was revisited with the Board’s current legal counsel who initially felt this interpretation was correct. However, legal counsel did agree that if NSBEP felt it would serve the public interest, the Board could choose to interpret the existing wording in the Psychologists Act through policy that an individual is considered to have obtained the equivalent of the degree when all requirements for the degree are completed and NSBEP has received appropriate verification. The Board approved this change in practice.

Although it is unlikely that a degree will not be conferred after an individual has completed all of the requirements, the Board can revoke its approval if the degree is not awarded within 6 months of the expected convocation date.

This change in requirements means that qualified individuals may now be able to become registered after meeting their degree requirements without having to wait (often for many months) for the formality of the convocation. [More information about these requirements is available through the following link](#)