

*North Carolina Psychology Board
January 24, 2014*

Advisory Statement on Face-to-Face Supervision by Electronic Means

The Board has become increasingly aware of the difficulty for a supervisee to meet in person with a supervisor for Board mandated supervision on a regular basis, especially in rural areas where traveling a great distance may be required in order to meet with a supervisor. As a result, effective immediately, the Board has broadened its interpretation of the term “face-to-face” for all supervision required under Board rule, to include not only in person face-to-face supervision, where the supervisor and supervisee meet in person in the same physical location, but to also include electronic means of face-to-face interaction, without meeting in person. The face-to-face supervision must be live, interactive and visual. Video or other technology may be used so long as it is synchronous (real time) and involves verbal and visual interaction for the entire session. The face-to-face supervision must take place in such a manner as to maintain the confidentiality of the communication as it relates to the identifying information regarding patients/clients. Due to the fact that changes in technology are constantly evolving, the Board cannot provide advice regarding the specific technology to utilize.

Therefore, any real time video technology where the supervisor and supervisee can actually see each other face-to-face and verbally communicate with each other, but are not in the same room, also meets the requirements of face-to-face, as set forth in Board rules regarding supervision, so long it takes place in a confidential manner.

Please note that the Board has not changed its interpretation of the plain meaning of any other language in its rules other than broadening its interpretation of “face-to-face” in its rules regarding supervision. Supervision is still required to be individual and for the requisite hours per week or per month as set forth in rule.

When a supervisor and supervisee are deciding whether to meet in person or through electronic medium, some factors to consider are whether reports or evaluations will be reviewed and whether that can be done through use of electronic medium; whether the supervisory relationship is newly established; and/or whether there are concerns that are better addressed in person.