

September 4, 2019

Re: proposed rule change under 21 NCAC 54.2008

I have been a Licensed Psychological Associate in North Carolina since 2003. I earned a Master's degree in clinical and community psychology from UNC-Charlotte where I completed a selective and rigorous 3-year program that included a practicum and an original research thesis. I then took the same national psychology licensing exam as doctoral-degreed candidates, and I passed at the Licensed Psychologist level (a slightly higher threshold than for the LPA qualification). I was at least as prepared, if not better prepared, to enter the workforce than most Master's- level behavioral health clinicians.

Unfortunately, the imposed requirement for lifetime supervision has limited my ability to practice and excel at a level commensurate with other Master's-level clinicians, despite my excellent training. If I were an LCSW or LPC, without mandated lifetime supervision, I would have qualified years ago for a federal grant that repays school loans for those working with underserved populations. If I did not have mandated lifetime supervision, I would have qualified for jobs with private agencies that take insured patients or community agencies that bill Medicare. If I did not have mandated lifetime supervision, I would not be burdened by the need to ensure that money is available for monthly supervision, every month of the last 16 years.

Please take this information into consideration as you consider the proposed rule change under 21 NCAC 54.2008.

Sincerely,

Heather Rothrock, LPA, LCAS