

Proposed rule change under 21 NCAC 54.2008

To: North Carolina Psychology Board
From: Liz Williams, MA, SSP, LPA
Date: September 7, 2019
Re: Proposed rule change under 21 NCAC 54.2008

To the North Carolina Psychology Board,

I recently received my LPA license after many, many months of hard work and \$3,161.90 of financial investment in study materials, application fees, transcript requests, background checks, and exam fees. Prior to this, I worked in the public school system for 5 years. Throughout my time living in Winston-Salem, I have realized that there is an enormous shortage of psychologists who are available to do testing for learning disabilities such as Dyslexia. The waiting list to be evaluated is often 4-6 months long (or more!) for a private evaluation. As a parent, I can't imagine the frustration I would feel at being told I had to wait for 6 months for my child to even be evaluated. I have endeavored upon the path of getting my LPA to help fill this gap in our community. Additionally, many of the psychologists that currently do private testing will soon be retiring, which will only make this shortage worse.

As I have gotten further into this process, I have realized that the lifelong supervision requirement is going to be an enormous barrier to my continuing to practice privately. It's not only a huge financial burden, but simply a time impediment as well. The type of evaluations that I want to do are fairly straightforward evaluations that will help parents, better understand and help their children. This is something that I am currently more than qualified to do and most certainly doesn't warrant life-long supervision. Most of the parents I have talked to have children in private schools, which don't have the same types of resources that the public school system has. The types of evaluations that I was doing in the public school system were much more complex and multi-faceted than the evaluations that I will be doing privately.

A supervision requirement in order to ensure competency and protect the public's best interest is necessary; however, supervision *beyond* this point is simply a barrier that keeps LPA's from practicing. I feel very confident that my training as a School Psychologist has more than prepared me for the types of evaluations that I would perform privately. It is in the public's best interest to let those who have the necessary expertise and experience, use those skills to help people who need them.

The North Carolina Psychology Board has a very important job of regulating the practice of Psychology and protecting the public's best interest. I ask that you consider what the public's best interest is when deciding the purpose and scope of life-long supervision.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Liz Williams, MA, SSP, LPA