

249 Wilson Dr., Ste 5

Boone, NC 28607

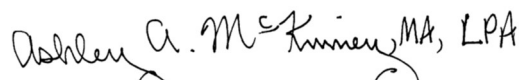
amckinneylpa@gmail.com

9/11/19

To the North Carolina Board of Psychology re: **proposed rule change under 21 NCAC 54.2008**

Please consider eliminating supervision requirements for experienced licensed psychological associates. I am an LPA with almost 15 years of experience. My supervisor retired several years ago, and I had to seek another supervisor. Living in a rural part of North Carolina made it difficult for me to access PhD psychologists. Other LPAs have contacted me to ask for assistance in finding a supervisor as well. I also work with a difficult population (such as DSS-referred children with the potential of ceasing reunification efforts with the family), and much of my work involves criminal or civil court testimony. Thus at least one PhD psychologist who was available turned me down for supervision due to "risk." I finally found a supervisor with whom I am pleased, but it does not seem necessary for me to provide high-quality, evidence-based assessment and treatment. I suspect my supervisor would agree with me. Finally, I am the only provider in a 7-county rural area bills Medicaid for psychological evaluations. I provide competency evaluations for the court in four counties due to no other psychologists or psychological associates being available to provide this service. My challenges in obtaining supervision present a threat to insufficient service availability. There are simply very few LPAs or PhD psychologists who offer psychological testing in the area in which I live. This community would therefore benefit from elimination of supervision requirements for LPAs. Thank you for considering my feedback.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ashley A. McKinney, MA, LPA. The signature is written in cursive and includes the initials 'MA, LPA' at the end.

Ashley A. McKinney, LPA #2555