

November 4, 2019

To the Members of the North Carolina Psychology Board:

I would like to express my support for eliminating the supervision requirement for Master's level psychologists. Although I am grateful for the years of supervision that I have had, I feel it has placed an unfair burden on me in many ways. I am not allowed to be the owner of a Professional Limited Liability Corporation unless I own it with a PhD or PsyD psychologist. So, the practice for which I work, and to which I developed and contributed an equal share, I have to be paid as a contracted employee. I get none of the benefits of being the owner of this business, even though my business partner and I share equally in the duties involved in running the practice.

I also worked for 12 years as the Juvenile Court Psychologist for the 21st Judicial District. I started out doing this work with a PsyD supervisor, but when he left the agency for a new position, I handled the work by myself for 2 years. I was recently informed that the funding for the position was cut, and I could no longer do this work because they wanted to hire a PhD or PsyD in the position. So, despite 16 years of forensic experience, my job was given to a clinician that has a PsyD and no forensic experience whatsoever.

With my supervision requirement, which is now at 1 hour per month, I still cannot be reimbursed by many insurance companies. I think that the supervision requirement has cost me dearly in my profession and held me back from doing the work that I could have done without the lifetime supervision requirement. I believe it is an unfair burden on clinicians that have better quality training than similarly licensed master's level clinicians.

Thank you in advance for getting rid of this unfair and unnecessary burden on master's level psychologists.

Sincerely,

Sally Thornton, MA, LPA