

From CPA "Progress Notes":

Editor's Note from Dr. Charles Faltz: Several weeks ago CPA began to be contacted by psychologists-in-training who had submitted a Supervision Agreement Form to the Board of Psychology and the Board's initial decision was to not accept the form. Since it became aware of the issue, CPA has gathered information from the affected parties and the Board of Psychology. In the article that follows, CPA's President encourages the affected parties to request re-consideration by the Board of Psychology by providing mitigating information to the Board.

APPLICANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK REVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGY BOARD'S INITIAL DECISION TO DENY SPE CREDIT\*

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Those applicants for registration or licensure whose Supervisor Agreement Form was not accepted by the Board of Psychology (BOP) are encouraged to submit additional documentation to the Board and to request re-consideration of the Board's initial decision to deny credit for the hours of training.

It appears to be the case that only a small number of applicants who have been denied SPE in these cases have taken advantage of the offer in the denial letter to report mitigating information to the Board.

To develop potentially mitigating information, applicants can first review the Supervisor Agreement, in particular Parts I, II, and III, and the section that follows on the goals and objectives of the SPE plan. Materials and documents provided at the onset of SPE that describe a training plan and/or that documents meeting(s) with the primary supervisor and/or program director in which the supervised experience was discussed can also be organized and submitted to the Board. Documentation of whatever form of agreement was in place at the onset of the supervised professional experience can be submitted as evidence.

Letters or notes that outlined the training and supervision arrangements are materials that can be offered to the Board as mitigation. Applicants can also ask supervisors, faculty and Directors of Training from their school and training site to provide documentation and statements which formally attest to the nature and structure of the organized training program provided to the trainee.

It is not possible to know or guarantee what decision the Board will make after it considers mitigating information that is submitted. Whatever decision is made by an applicant about what to submit as mitigating information, it is strongly recommended that the applicant thoroughly review on the BOP website the legal requirements for obtaining Supervised Professional Experience. Included in that review should be pages 1-2 of the June, 2006 BOP Update that specifically informed every California licensed psychologist of the requirements of the Supervision Agreement. The article explains the important rationale of the supervisor agreement, which is to help increase the likelihood that the prelicensure experience will produce well-trained, skilled, and competent psychologists.

The BOP article, "Supervision Agreement Required as of January 1, 2005," can be found at

<http://www.psychboard.ca.gov/formspubs/bop0606.pdf>

\*The suggestions and information provided here is not legal advice. Applicants who want and require legal advice for their case before the BOP must consult an attorney. CPA is prohibited by law from directly intervening in any applicant's case that is before the Board of Psychology. It is CPA's concern about the magnitude of the effect this matter has had on so many students and supervisors, that has prompted the Association to offer these ideas and suggestions for requesting that the BOP review its initial decisions in these cases.