

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS  
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 510-5 SUPPLEMENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT OF  
THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS, RULE 510-5-  
.06 WELFARE OF CLIENTS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL  
RELATIONSHIPS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**RULE 510-5-.06 Welfare of Clients and Other Professional Relationships**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (hereinafter “Board”) proposes an amendment to Rule 510-5-.02 Definitions (herein after “proposed rule”).

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule may also be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. The documents will also be available for review on the Board’s website at <https://sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-examiners-psychologists>. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment at a public hearing to be held at **9:30 a.m. Friday, August 25, 2023** in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. If the Board office remains closed due to the public health emergency (COVID-19), the hearing will be held via teleconference. Please see Board’s website for information on how to join the meeting via teleconference.

Interested parties affected by the rule may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on Friday, August 18, 2023 Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Gabriel Sterling, Interim Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

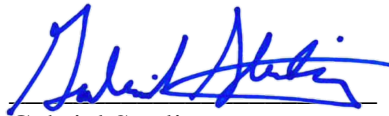
The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meeting on April 28, 2023. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule amendment does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendment cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-39- 5(d), and 43-39-13. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-39- 5(d), and 43-39-13 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of psychology.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists has the authority to adopt proposed Rule 510-5-.06 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-39- 5(d), and 43-39-13.

For further information, contact the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 21st day of July, 2023.



Gabriel Sterling  
Interim Division Director  
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: 7.21.23

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE  
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS RULE  
510-5-.06 WELFARE OF CLIENTS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL  
RELATIONSHIPS**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed adoption is to amend the rule to clarify that the delegation to and supervision of psychological services referenced in this portion of the rule apply to employment settings, not training settings.

**510-5-.06 Welfare of Clients and Other Professional Relationships**

**(1) Consultations and Referrals.**

(a) Psychologists arrange for appropriate consultations and referrals based principally on the best interests of their client/patients, with appropriate consent, and subject to other relevant considerations, including applicable law and contractual obligations.

(b) Psychologists' referral practices are consistent with law.

**(2) Continuity of Care.**

(a) Psychologists shall make arrangements for another appropriate professional or professionals to deal with the emergency needs of his/her patients or clients, as appropriate, during periods of foreseeable absence from professional availability, unless section 10.10 of the Code of Ethics is applicable.

(b) Psychologists make reasonable efforts to plan for continuity of care in the event that psychological services are interrupted by factors such as the psychologist's illness, death, unavailability or by the client/patient's relocation or financial limitations.

(c) Confidentiality After Termination of Professional Relationship. Psychologists shall continue to treat as confidential, information regarding client/patients after the professional relationship between the psychologist and the client/patient has ceased.

**(3) Delegation to and Supervision of Supervisees of Psychological Services in Employment Settings.**

(a) The following rules do not apply to training settings. When the delegation and supervision of psychological services is being conducted for training purposes towards licensure, psychologists must comply with the Rules regarding internships, fellowships and/or postdoctoral supervised work experience.

(a) 1. Psychologists shall not delegate professional responsibilities to a person who is not qualified to provide such services. Psychologists delegate to supervisees, with the appropriate level of supervision, only those responsibilities that such persons can reasonably be expected to perform competently and ethically based on the supervisee's education, training, and experience.

~~(b)~~ 2. Psychologists shall not delegate responsibilities or accept supervisory responsibilities for work which they are not qualified and personally competent to perform. Psychologists must retain full, complete, and ultimate authority and responsibility for the professional acts of supervisees.

~~(c)~~ 3. The supervisee must have appropriate education and training, including training in ethical issues, to perform the delegated functions. The psychologist is responsible for determining the competency of the supervisee and will not assign or allow the supervisee to undertake tasks beyond the scope of the supervisee's training and/or competency. The psychologist is also responsible for providing the supervisee with specific instructions regarding the limits of his/her role as supervisee.

~~(d)~~ 4. The supervisee must fully inform the patient or client receiving services of his or her role as supervisee and the right of the patient or client to confer with the supervising psychologist with regard to any aspect of the services, care, treatment, evaluation, or tests being performed.

~~(e)~~ 5. When clinical psychological services are rendered, the psychologist must take part in the intake process, must personally make the diagnosis when a diagnosis is required, and must personally approve and co-sign a treatment plan for each patient or client. The psychologist must meet personally with the supervisee on a continuous and regular basis concerning each patient or client and must review the treatment record, including progress notes, on a regular basis as appropriate to the task(s). The psychologist must provide a minimum of one hour of supervision for every 20 hours of face-to-face clinical contact. The psychologist shall not take primary supervisory responsibility for more than three supervisees engaged in psychological services concurrently without Board approval.

~~(f)~~ 6. The selection and interpretation of psychological tests shall only be made by the psychologist. The psychologist must personally interview the patient when a diagnosis is made or is requested. In any written report, including psychological evaluations, the psychologist must approve and sign the report. When the supervisee does not participate in the actual writing of a report, but does administer and/or score psychological tests, the supervisee is not required to sign the report, but his or her name must be listed as the person who participated in the collection of the data in the report. When the supervisee personally participates in the writing of any report, then both the psychologist and the supervisee must sign the report.

~~(g) When the delegation and supervision of psychological services is being conducted for training purposes towards licensure, psychologists must comply with the Rules regarding internships, fellowships and/or postdoctoral supervised work experience.~~

**Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-39- 5(d), and 43-39-13.**

**RULES**

**OF**

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS**

**CHAPTER 510, RULE 5-.06 WELFARE OF CLIENTS AND OTHER  
PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

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4. The supervisee must fully inform the patient or client receiving services of his or her role as supervisee and the right of the patient or client to confer with the supervising psychologist with regard to any aspect of the services, care, treatment, evaluation, or tests being performed.

5. When clinical psychological services are rendered, the psychologist must take part in the intake process, must personally make the diagnosis when a diagnosis is required, and must personally approve and co-sign a treatment plan for each patient or client. The psychologist must meet personally with the supervisee on a continuous and regular basis concerning each patient or client and must review the treatment record, including progress notes, on a regular basis as appropriate to the task(s). The psychologist must provide a minimum of one hour of supervision for every 20 hours of face-to-face clinical contact. The psychologist shall not take primary supervisory responsibility for more than three supervisees engaged in psychological services concurrently without Board approval.

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**Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-39- 5(d), and 43-39-13.**