



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

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Registering for EMERGENCY PRACTICE in the State of Alabama

RATIONAL

Since the State of Alabama is subject to natural, technological, and/or national security hazards that could result in an emergency or disaster situation that may exhaust the resources available from within the State, it may from time to time be necessary to allow external resources to provide professional services which, under normal circumstances, require a professional license issued by the State of Alabama. The State of Alabama Emergency Operations Plan¹ (“EOP”) details the State’s capabilities, plans, and procedures to provide for the safety and welfare of citizen’s during times of emergency.

In the event that the Governor of the State, or other legally designated alternate, proclaims a state of emergency, indicative of a Level I declared disaster which requires an extensive State response and recovery effort where the State and local governments are clearly overwhelmed, short-term and long-term action(s) may be taken to return individuals and their communities to a state of normalcy as in the same condition prior to the incident. Typical recovery actions may include disaster mental health services (Psychological First Aid), and planning and programs for long term stabilization, recovery, and mitigation.

Emergency operations plans mandate that agencies quickly assess the medical and public health consequences of emergency incidents, and then develop and implement sustainable short- and long-term strategies for effectively addressing those consequences. Agencies will immediately engage necessary resources for Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services. And, agencies will provide disaster mental health services (Psychological First Aid, including crisis counseling for victims) on an immediate and continuing basis when applicable. Disaster and emergency recovery actions are keyed to help individuals and communities return to a normal or better condition than before the incident. Disaster Recovery Centers are staffed with knowledgeable personnel to provide recovery program information, advice, counseling, and related technical assistance to the citizens of Alabama. When an Emergency Support Function agency is activated, they participate in planning for short- and long-term incident management and recovery operations.

PROCEDURES

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology, after considering the probability of occurrence (frequency) and impact if an emergency or disaster occurs (vulnerability), **will allow an individual who is licensed or registered for independent practice in another jurisdiction to practice psychology in the State of Alabama in response to a declared emergency for a finite amount of time**, pursuant to *The Code of Alabama, 1975* §34-26-41(g) and the Board’s Administrative Code Rule 750-X-2-.08(7) regarding Licensure Of Applicants Licensed To Practice Psychology In Another Jurisdiction.

Psychologists providing disaster or emergency services in the State of Alabama must **register** with the Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology **within ten (10) business days** of entering the State by filing an **Emergency Practice Registration Form** with the Board office.

Any person violating this rule shall be considered practicing without a license and shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board and/or the Alabama Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection.

Procedures for filing an EMERGENCY PRACTICE REGISTRATION FORM:

1. Contact the Board office to request the form be sent to you. It may also be downloaded from the Board's website at www.psychology.alabama.gov/emergency.aspx.
2. The completed, signed and dated Emergency Practice Registration Form must be received in the Board office within ten (10) business days of the date that emergency practice commences.
3. Mail the registration form to the Board office at:
Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
100 North Union Street
Suite 880
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
4. Upon receipt of the registration form, the Board office will:
 - a. Verify the visiting psychologist's affiliation, or correlating registration, with the Emergency Support Function(s) identified the Emergency Practice Registration Form.
 - b. Contact the visiting psychologist using the preferred contact method indicated on the Emergency Practice Registration Form to confirm receipt of his or her registration and to verify all of the information provided in the form.
 - c. Maintain contact with the visiting psychologist periodically during the time that he or she indicated that he or she would be working in the State, as necessary.
5. The visiting psychologist must contact the Board to confirm completion of services by calling the Board office at (334) 242-4127. Emergency or disaster practice must cease within sixty (60) days of the date that practice commences.

Reference: *Code of Alabama, 1975 §31-9-6 Powers and duties of Governor with respect to emergency management.*

ⁱ *State of Alabama Emergency Operations Plan.* Alabama Emergency Management Agency, Response Division. February 1, 2012.