



# Ohio Board of Psychology

## **Advisory Statement on Sexual Orientation Change Efforts**

Consensus statements from across the behavioral health community indicate that: persons who identify as homosexual, bisexual and/or transgender are not, per se, suffering from a psychological problem or mental disorder; and, interventions sometimes referred to as "conversion therapy" and "sexual orientation change efforts" targeted at changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity are contraindicated and can be harmful, especially when imposed on youth. For example, see statements and references published online by the Ohio Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the American Medical Association.

Professional consensus and expert opinion, in part, establish the standards of acceptable practice in psychology. Avoiding harm is the cornerstone of psychological ethics. Existing laws and rules governing psychologists and school psychologists provide a basis by which targeting conversion therapy at minors could result in charges of misconduct and disciplinary action against the license, including but not necessarily limited to:

### **Ohio Revised Code 4732.17 Actions against applicants or license holders**

(A) Subject to division (F) of this section, the state board of psychology may take any of the actions specified in division (C) of this section against an applicant for or a person who holds a license issued under this chapter on any of the following grounds as applicable:

- (6) Being negligent in the practice of psychology or school psychology;
- (9) Practicing in an area of psychology for which the person is clearly untrained or incompetent;

### **Ohio Administrative Code 4732-17-01 General rules of professional conduct**

(B) Negligence:

(1) A license holder in a professional psychological role, as that term is defined in paragraph (R) of rule 4732-3-01 of the Administrative Code shall be considered negligent if his/her behaviors toward his/her clients, evaluatees, supervisees, employees or students, in the judgment of the board, clearly fall below the standards for acceptable practice of psychology or school psychology.

(4) Misrepresentation of affiliations. A license holder shall not misrepresent directly or by implication his/her affiliations or the purposes or characteristics of institutions and organizations with which the psychologist is associated.

(c) A license holder shall not associate with or permit his/her name to be used in connection with any services or products in such a way as to misrepresent them, the degree of his/her responsibility for them, or the nature of his/her association with them.

(C) Welfare of the client, evaluatee, and associated persons:

(7) Stereotypes. A license holder shall not impose on a client any stereotypes of behavior, values, or roles related to age, gender, religion, race, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation that would interfere with the objective provision of psychological services to the client.