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Kentucky Psychological Association e-NEWS

December 2015/January 2016

CE Connections: Upcoming KPA CE Events

Monday, Jan. 11

Live CE: Frankfort, KY

[Advocacy – Every Voice Counts](#)

Sheila Shuster, Ph.D., 3 CEs

Wednesday, Feb. 3

Live Advocacy Event
Frankfort, KY

[Legislative Day](#)

Friday Feb 19th

Live CE: Louisville, KY

[Integrating Mindfulness and Compassion into Clinical Practice](#) Brigid Kleinman, Ph.D., 3 CEs

Friday, March 18 & Sat.

March 19

Live CE: Louisville, KY

[Business of Practice Conference](#) Multiple

Presenters, Up to 9 CEs.

Friday, April 15

Interactive Webinar: 12-1pm
EST

[Time Limited Dynamic Psychotherapy](#)

Hanna Levenson, Ph.D., 6 CEs.E

Friday, May 20

Live CE: Louisville, KY

[Assessment & Clinical Management of Suicidal Patients](#)

M.Daivd Rudd, Ph.D., ABPP
6 CEs.

Friday, June 10

Live CE: Louisville, KY

[Neuropsychology for the Non-Neuropsychologist](#)

Bradley Folley, PhD, ABPP
Rebecca L.H. Stimp, PhD 3 CEs.

Complete details and registration information can be found on the [KPA Event Calendar](#).

Next KPA Board of Directors Meeting

March 11, 2016

December News from KPA

Here's the December edition of the KPA e-NEWS, a regular e-newsletter, to enhance communication about psychology across the state. What follows is a sampling of psychology-related news and opportunities across the Commonwealth. Check out the column on the left for upcoming KPA Social and CE events, meetings, Kentucky Currents (member news items), and more. For more updates, visit the KPA website and join KPA on Facebook: simply click "Like" on the Kentucky Psychological Association Facebook page.

2015 Highlights from the KPA Executive Director

by Lisa Willner, Ph.D., KPA Executive Director

2015 has been a busy and productive year for KPA! A few highlights, reflecting each of my primary focus areas through the year:

Personnel. The KPA Central Office has seen a number of changes in 2015. Since March of this year, Joy Kaplan has been on board as KPA's Operations Manager. Joy came to us with an MBA and a strong understanding of financial systems and structures. She has been a quick study, and is still learning some of the particularities and peculiarities of our organization. Another change came when KPA's administrative assistant left her position just before the Annual Convention. We have been very fortunate to have former employee Sarah Burress and temporary administrative assistant Celina Whobrey working diligently to fill the hole, and we are excited to welcome Marsha Green as KPA's new administrative assistant beginning immediately after the New Year.

Advocacy. Another transition has been taking place in KPA's lobbying arena. The 2015 General Assembly marked the final year of Dr. Sheila Schuster's serving as KPA's primary lobbyist. While Sheila will continue to serve as a consultant to KPA, the primary lobbying responsibility will shift to McCarthy Strategic Solutions and their high-powered and very experienced team beginning in 2016. For the past two sessions, Sheila has worked closely with John McCarthy and his associates, and we are confident that we remain in very good hands. As Sheila's role has shifted, others have stepped in to provide continuity and build capacity. Thanks to Advocacy Committee Chair Dr. Georgeann Stamper Brown for coordinating the second annual KPA Legislative Day in 2015, and for her and the committee's advocacy work throughout the year. Thanks also to Dr. Felicia Smith and Dr. Joe Edwards, co-chairs of the new KPA-PAC for their oversight of the many mechanics and details involved in establishing a new political action committee.

Leadership. In 2015, the KPA membership laid the foundation for a change to KPA's leadership structure, by voting to amend the bylaws to add a permanent Diversity Interest Section representative to the Board of Directors. The bylaws change has been ratified by the Board, and incoming KPA President Dr. Amanda Merchant will appoint a member of the Diversity Interest Section to serve in the new board role.

Member Services. 2015 was an active year for member consultations on a range of ethics and practice questions, there was very high participation in our wide-ranging continuing education offerings, and convention was a resounding success. KPA kept our members apprised of national issues such as the APA Hoffman Report and the shift to ICD-10, and statewide issues such as recent regulatory changes. We responded quickly to the new Suicide Prevention training requirement for all mental health providers by offering two

[View the KPA Board of Directors](#)

KPA Book Corner

The KPA Book Corner highlights books written by KPA Members and those recommended by KPA speakers, including those from the 2013 Convention. [Click here to take a look at our current listings.](#)

If you have presented for KPA or are a KPA Member author, please send your suggested items to kpa@kpa.org. (If you order Book Corner recommendations or other items through Amazon, remember to access the Amazon site by clicking on the Amazon link on the KPA home page - Amazon donates a small percentage of these purchases back to KPA!)

Community Bulletin Board

A forum is available to any KPA member who would like to post information that the psychology community may find interesting or helpful or for which psychology input is requested. Visit the [Community Bulletin Board](#) to view current messages or to post a new message.

Members in the Media

Members in the Media

Joe Bargione, PhD., KPA Member and lead psychologist for Jefferson County Public Schools recorded a live-to-tape interview at WAVE TV tin October for a Dawne Gee special on suicide prevention.

The following members appeared on "Let's Talk" at 970AM WGTK with fellow KPA member Stan Frager, Ph.D.

Karyn McKenzie, Ph.D. discussed Healthy Relationships

Advertisement:

outstanding training opportunities this year, most recently by nationally renowned suicidologist M.David Rudd, Ph.D. ([Note that Dr. Rudd will be presenting on the topic for KPA again in 2016](#)).

Open Call for CE Proposals for KPA 2016 Annual Conference and/or 2017 KPA CE Calendar.!

If you are interested in presenting a Continuing Education workshop during the 2016 Annual Convention or the 2017 calendar year, please complete a CE proposal form by clicking the CE Open Call link.

Kentucky Psychological Foundation News

Dear Colleagues,

At this special time of year, the [Kentucky Psychological Foundation](#) would like to thank so many of you for your generous support for KPF.

The Silent Auction at the convention raised nearly \$2600. Many of you donate throughout the year, so thank you!!

How are the funds used? All funds are used to help build a psychologically healthy Kentucky. Here are a few specific examples:

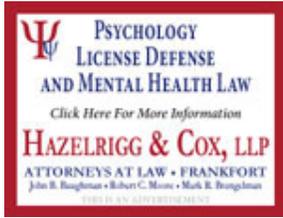
- Research awards at the annual Spring Academic Conference support high quality psychological research and nurture the next generation of psychologists.
- National diversity speakers at convention and throughout the year promote the reduction of health disparities and increase cultural proficiency for psychologists and other mental health providers.
- KPF's Psychologically Healthy Workplace Awards promote empirically supported healthy workplace practices in a wide range of organizational settings.

What will we do with additional funds?

- The Public Education committee wants to expand the reach to newspapers across the state, facilitate social media and technological means to providing accurate and timely psychological information to the public.
- The Diversity committee is expanding its presence to include Cultural Consultations for KPA members, and to take a multidisciplinary approach to reducing mental health and educational disparities.

These efforts will require more staff time and resources.

The Foundation welcomes your end-of-year donations to these efforts. All donations to the [Kentucky Psychological Foundation](#) are completely tax deductible.



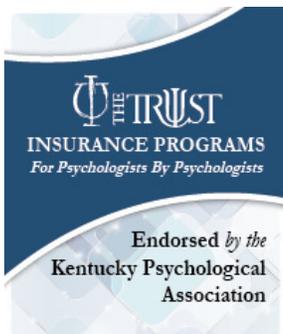
Members in the Media

Please send your announcements to kpa@kpa.org so that your news may be shared with the KPA membership.

KPA Interest Sections

Joining KPA Interest Sections is free and participation on the listservs is an exclusive member benefit. Many ideas, resources, and requests for treatment recommendations and other opportunities flow through the KPA listservs daily. Here is an excerpt from a post on the KPA Clinical listserv: "Thank you to everyone who shared their experiences with me. I was quite surprised at the variability of your responses.....Nice to have a community to call on for advice when such situations arise!" If you want to expand your resources and deepen your own sense of community within KPA, visit the KPA Interest Section webpage for instructions on how to join a KPA Interest Section.

[Interest Section Details](#)
[Listserv Details](#)



Join KPA and KPAGS on Facebook!

KPA has always been an organization that works to be

Again, the Board appreciates your generosity and will continue its work to build a psychologically healthy Kentucky. I know we all believe that every effort is needed to improve the lives of so many in need as this is what called many of us to the profession.

We wish you the best of the holiday season!

Thank you,

Cay Shawler
 President, Kentucky Psychological Foundation

2016 Spring Academic Conference is Coming!

The 2016 Kentucky Psychological Foundation Spring Academic Conference will be held on Saturday, April 2nd at the University of Kentucky. Look for details soon on KPA's Spring Academic Conference homepage.

Research Colloquium Travel Award

The Kentucky Psychological Foundation has created an initiative to support the presentation of research colloquia by psychologists in academic or research settings within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The purpose of this initiative is to foster inter-institutional networking between Kentucky academic or research institutions, promote the exchange of ideas, and provide career-development opportunities for academic and research psychologists within the Commonwealth. [Click here for details.](#)

[Help support the Kentucky Psychological Foundation by making a donation today!](#)

2015 KPA Annual Conference Wrap-Up

Many thanks to all who participated in making KPA's 2015 Conference "Creating our Future in a Transforming Landscape" such a tremendous success. There were many outstanding speakers and workshops and lots of great networking opportunities as we came together for our annual "family reunion". A special thank you to Convention Chair, Dr. Marianne McClure and the entire 2015 Convention Committee, and all of our wonderful volunteer presenters!

We'll be back in Louisville in 2016 for what promises to be yet another wonderful gathering. Look forward to upcoming information about the 2016 Annual Conference. In the meantime, click on the Convention homepage for an overview this past year's convention highlights.

Psychologists' Work in the Wake of Disasters

by Laurie Grimes, PhD, KPA Director of Professional Affairs

inclusive of all psychologists in the state. Kentucky Psychological Association is officially on the popular social networking site, Facebook.com, and currently has 378 "friends". All you need to do to join the Kentucky Psychological Association on Facebook is to select the "Like" button after finding our group on Facebook. Please be sure to search for "Kentucky Psychological Association" and review the KPA Social Media/Forum Policy.

Advertise in the KPA e-Newsletter!

The bi-monthly editions of the KPA e-Newsletter, are distributed to over 1100 KPA members. The eNewsletter is sent via blast email at the end of Jan, March, May, July, Sept and Nov with submissions accepted at any time. Complete information and pricing details are available on the KPA Advertising webpage.

Support KPA During in 2015 via Shopping on Amazon.com

You can support KPA when shopping on Amazon by clicking the Amazon link on the main KPA website as a first step in making purchases on Amazon.com. Up to 3% of every purchase made on Amazon when you click their link on the main KPA website benefits KPA.

The Easiest Way to Accept Payments

The Kentucky Psychological Association is pleased to offer member merchant accounts - credit and debit card processing for your practice. A merchant account provides your clients with a convenient and immediate payment option and makes it easy for them to pay you for your services. Accept payment for consultation fees, counseling sessions and insurance co-pays. With a merchant account, you can:

- Accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover & AMEX.
- Control cash flow & increase

When violence and disaster strikes, psychologists are likely to be involved in the aftermath. Whether treating victims of violence, addressing distress from indirect exposure to disaster and terrorist events, providing guidance to parents and the public in the wake of world events, or participating in disaster relief efforts, psychological expertise is needed to help manage anxiety, stress, and coping challenges in individuals, families, and communities. The recent bombing in Paris is the most recent example of a world tragedy prompting local stress. Our clients may have a sibling, friend, or relative studying in Paris or may have visited the city themselves - this, coupled with the random, unpredictable, and intentional aspects of the crime make people feel more vulnerable and anxious. Schools, churches, and other organizations sometimes reach out to psychologists for guidance in these situations. Some recent articles and resources are listed below that may be useful in working with people and populations affected by disaster and violence. While individual circumstances will guide intervention, standard guidelines emphasize helping people to maintain a regular routine, focus on resilience, establish social support and community connection, limit exposure to the endless news cycle (particularly for children), and, for children, be honest and forthright with age appropriate language and content, start a conversation, listen and reassure.

- [How to Cope With Anxiety During Terror Threats](#)
- [Building resilience to manage indirect exposure to terror](#)
- [How to talk to children about difficult news and tragedies](#)
- [Recovering emotionally from disaster](#)
- [What psychologists do on disaster relief operations](#)

Other resources:

- [Disaster Distress Hotline](#) -
- [Listen, Protect, Connect – Psychological First Aid for Teacher & Students \(PDF, 2MB\)](#)
- [Tips for Talking With and Helping Children and Youth Cope After a Disaster or Traumatic Event – a guide for parents, caregivers, and teachers \(PDF, 300KB\)](#)
- [Helpful Hints for School Emergency Management: Psychological First Aid for Students and Teachers: Listen, Protect, Connect – Model & Teach](#)
- [Explaining the News to Our Kids](#)
- [Children & Grief: Guidance and Support Resources](#)
- [The Road to Resilience](#)

New Regulatory Changes for Psychology

As of December 16, 2015, three new regulations were approved which relate to the practice of psychology in Kentucky.

1. The reg with the most buzz (201 KAR 26:175) puts into place the new continuing education requirement regarding suicide assessment, treatment, and management passed by the General Assembly. The reg stipulates the following:

- ☐ Licensees will be required to have a six-hour CE on suicide assessment, treatment, and management within the first year of licensure and every six years thereafter.
- ☐ There will be flexibility regarding the distribution of course work hours and who offers the CE course as long as they are approved sponsoring organizations, such as KPA; other organizations are outlined in the reg.
- ☐ Exemptions will be granted under the following circumstances:
 - o A new licensee will have the requirement waived for the first 6 years if s/he has completed a 3 semester hour graduate course in suicide and crisis assessment, prevention, and intervention during graduate education.
 - o The requirement will be waived if, during the 6-year licensing period, the licensee:
 - ☐ is primarily employed in a JCAHO or nationally accredited healthcare entity that requires a suicide risk assessment with each patient that is seen
 - ☐ teaches a graduate-level course in suicide assessment, training, and management
 - ☐ teaches a continuing education course in suicide assessment, training, and management at least once during the 6 year period.

2. The second reg regards dual licensure (201 KAR 26:121), specifically addresses scope of practice situations where a psychologist is licensed by the psychology board as well as another

business.

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KPA Home Study Opportunities

Under revised KRS CE regulations, you can now earn up to 12 credits per licensure cycle for home study courses. See what KPA has to offer...

[A First Step in Understanding the Affordable Care Act and Its Potential Impact on the Health and Mental Health of Kentuckians](#)

[Assessment of Religiousness and Spirituality in Clinical Practice, 1 CE](#)

[KPAF Diversity Conference Home Study Courses](#)

[Religion, Spirituality, and Clinical Practice Webinar Home Study Series](#)

View the [KPA Home Study Page](#) for additional options.

mental health regulatory board. The reg stipulates that:

- ☐ those who hold a license with the psychology board, no longer have to maintain a separate and distinct practice if s/he also practices under a license issued by another mental health regulatory board.
- ☐ the reg retained the language stating that psychological testing shall not be delivered under a credential other than a license issued by the Board of Examiners of Psychology.

3. The third reg (201 KAR 26:200) deals with educational requirements needed for licensure as a licensed psychologist. The reg stipulates that:

- ☐ applicants for licensure must have graduated with a doctoral degree in psychology from a regionally accredited educational institution, of which at least one full academic year was spent in residence. The criteria to be defined as a 'full academic year' are outlined in the reg and include requirements for face-to-face, in-person contact with faculty and other students.

The full text of the regulations is available through the Legislative Research Commission website: www.lrc.ky.gov

Well-Being Column: Stillness

by guest columnist John F. Christensen, Ph.D., APA Advisory Committee on Colleague Assistance

A recent development in information technology is the advent of Google glasses. These are smart goggles that allow streaming of data via the internet onto a sector of the lens and linked to a GPS embedded in the frame. Imagine walking by any place of business and with a glance at the storefront accessing the company website (restaurant menu, movie marquee with IMDB reviews) or being able to encounter a bird in the wild and with instant photo with feature recognition see all the information you want about that bird displayed in your field of vision. Pretty cool! Without waiting for this next best thing to emerge, we already have instant access to more information than was available in the great library of Alexandria (or any historical repository of human knowledge). If we wish, we can allow the information to roll over us in a continuous flow. But is there a cost to wading through this incessant stream?

Although our brains are quite adaptable and resilient, they require the full cycle of a night's sleep to prune unnecessary synaptic connections and consolidate and strengthen the connections of new knowledge. They also require stillness and silence to find the depth and meaning in what we absorb. For us (and our children) these moments of stillness are disappearing as rapidly as ice sheets in the polar regions. I found a New York Times article by Pico Ayer to be a compelling reminder of the deep value of cultivating silence and stillness. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/01/opinion/sunday/the-joy-of-quiet.html?pagewanted=all>

Making a conscious effort to create "unplugged" time can reap dividends beyond the investment of time (be it a day or an hour or even 5 minutes). When we disconnect from light emitting screens, email, Facebook, and the text messages we might delay, we open ourselves to the possibility of encountering what the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins called "the dearest freshness deep down things," whether it be a manifestation of nature, the touch of a loved one, or the murmurings of our own soul. A physician colleague in New York tries to honor the Sabbath in whatever small way he can. If he cannot take a sabbath day, he takes a "sabbath hour," into which he enters by placing the devices that connect him to the nonstop world (pager, smart phone, iPad, car keys) into a "sabbath box," where they remain to be picked up at the end of the sabbath time. The discipline to collect these moments of stillness requires that we tolerate the technological withdrawal symptoms of boredom or the anxiety of missing out on something.

For a deeper read on this issue, I recommend "The Shallows" (no pun intended) by Nicholas Carr (<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/06/books/review/Lehrer-t.html>) He refers back to Marshall McLuhan's Understanding Media to explore how the media of technology (rather than the message or content) are reshaping our minds.

**Kentucky Psychological
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To live consciously as humans entails being mindful not only of good nutrition, restorative sleep, and adequate exercise—but also ensuring we get our recommended daily allowance of stillness.

“When you lose touch with inner stillness, you lose touch with yourself. When you lose touch with yourself, you lose yourself in the world. Your innermost sense of self, of who you are, is inseparable from stillness. This is the I Am that is deeper than name and form.” —Eckhart Tolle

The APA Advisory Committee on Colleague Assistance (ACCA) seeks to promote the health and well-being of psychologists by providing resources to help them prevent burnout and to thrive and flourish in their personal and professional lives. It also seeks to help organizations in which psychologists work to promote their well-being. ACCA has a threefold mission:

1. To prevent and ameliorate professional distress and impairment and their consequences among psychologists.
2. To foster and provide resources via linkages to state associations to this end.
3. Thereby, to better protect the public.

ACCA attempts to attain these goals in three ways: by promoting an understanding and acknowledgment of the unique occupational hazards of psychologists' work, supporting the development and maintenance of state level assistance programming, and encouraging appropriate linkages between state ethics committees, regulatory boards and assistance programs. By working in these areas, ACCA hopes to serve the interests of the public and the professional community. Resources to help psychologists and their professional organizations can be found on the ACCA web page (<http://www.apa.org/practice/leadership/colleague-assistance.aspx>)

KPA Member Benefits: New Resources!

Technology Resource - Dr. Dan Florell, presenter of the June 21st, 2013 KPA CE Workshop, Advanced Supervision: Influence of Technology, has been gracious enough to share an audio recording of his workshop with KPA members interested in the advancements of technology and their use in the field of psychology. [Click here to learn more and to access the recording.](#)

Clinical Psychology – Overview and Effectiveness

PowerPoint courtesy of KPA Member Eric Russ, Ph.D., University of Louisville. Click [here to access the Powerpoint presentation.](#)

Ethics Resource - The KPA Ethics Committee has developed a list of resources for KPA members aimed to help psychologists find resources about self-assessment, self-care and the development of skills, relationships, and personal qualities that will allow them to be less vulnerable to ethical breaches and "slippery slopes" in their professional careers and foster

ethical awareness that leads to optimal practice. The posted resources define and discuss the stress—distress—impairment continuum, and the vulnerability at any point along the way to an ethical violation. They touch on topics such as risk factors, prevention of impairment, intervening with an impaired colleague, treatment options and the national movement toward establishing colleague assistance programs. <http://kpa.site-ym.com/?19#Ethics> Click here to learn more and to access the resources.

Getting your license, keeping your license, and losing your license.

Part four – an overview of the renewal process

by guest contributor, Mark R. Brengelman, JD, MA

This article is the fourth in a multi-part series covering the basics of licensure as a psychologist in Kentucky. Most readers of this KPA eNewsletter will have already completed the lengthy professional education and testing to qualify for a license to practice psychology.

This article covers requirements for all psychologists to renew their license. Continuing education compliance and its new provisions will be next. Finally, a concluding part in this series will be an overview of losing one's license to practice psychology in Kentucky. Once credentialed by the Kentucky Board, a psychologist must renew his or her credential every three years from the date it was first issued. KRS 319.071(1) governs the renewal process in such detail that no administrative regulation applies, except an administrative regulation which sets the renewal fees.

KRS 319.071 mandates this three year deadline to renew one's license. Psychologists should be aware a three year licensure period is unique in professional licensure – it is far more common to have a two year renewal cycle or even a one year renewal requirement. Other mental health professionals must renew their licenses more often than psychologists. As with so many other routine functions of the Kentucky Board, a renewal form exists and is available on the Board's web site. However, it is becoming more common to use the Kentucky Board's on-line renewal process, which takes a psychologist through the process as found on the renewal form and allows the payment of the required renewal fee electronically.

Psychologists should pay particular attention to the questions asked in the renewal process which involve inquiring as to matters that would lead the Board to conduct an investigation, such as criminal matters, mental health issues, and licensure status in other states. No single question and answer is dispositive of future action by the Kentucky Board, but answering "yes" to a question such as "have you been convicted of a crime since the last renewal" will surely trigger further inquiry by the Board. Information found as a result may be the basis for disciplinary action by the Board, including not renewing the license. Losing one's license will be the subject of this last article in this series.

What does it cost to renew one's license? While KRS 319.071 limits the fees "not to exceed \$100" for the three year renewal, another statute overrides this limit. KRS 319.032(1)(n) allows the Board "notwithstanding the fee schedules specified in this chapter, increase[e] or decrease[e] fees as it deems appropriate." Even without a dollar limit set by statute, all government fees are required to be set by administrative regulation.

Here, an administrative regulation, 201 KAR 26:160 § 1 mandates a \$450.00 fee for licensed psychologists, certified psychologists with autonomous functioning, and licensed psychological practitioners. A fee of \$300.00 is required for licensed psychological associates and certified psychologists. Independent practitioners therefore pay a higher rate than those who practice under supervision.

What happens if a psychologist does not renew his or her license? KRS 319.071(1) only mandates Board action after three months from the renewal expiration date when the Board is required to "cancel a license not renewed within three (3) months of the renewal date."

Therefore, there is a de facto approximately ninety (90) day grace period to renew before negative consequences follow. This will come in handy when continuing education compliance is reviewed next in this series of articles.

A psychologist whose license is cancelled for non-renewal after the three (3) month period “shall not practice psychology until the license has been restored.” Even then, a psychologist may reinstate a cancelled license anytime within three years from its cancellation by payment of the renewal fee and a penalty not to exceed the amount of the renewal fee. There is another option. A psychologist may also apply for an inactive license, which allows the psychologist to keep a license in name only since an inactive license does not allow one to practice psychology or to supervise other psychologists. A psychologist who has had a license cancelled or who has had inactive status for more than three years may still regain the license, but only after “passing an examination procedure and paying the renewal and penalty fees.” Reinstating a cancelled license or an inactive license is very straightforward within the three year period. Even after the three year period, reinstatement is still easily possible. With an unusually long three year renewal cycle, psychologists have the luxury, or perhaps the burden, of having three years to renew their credential by paying the renewal fee to cover all three years and to obtain their mandated continuing education. If a psychologist has not renewed the credential, or has attempted to renew but comes up short on the required continuing education, the three (3) month de facto grace period applies to allow the psychologist to do so. Even thereafter, a psychologist has up to three years to renew the license, with the fee and penalty, yet cannot practice psychology until he or she has done so..

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Mark R. Brengelman, JD, MA, is a Partner at Hazelrigg & Cox LLP, Frankfort, where he has successfully represented psychologists in Kentucky and out-of-state as well as other licensed health care

Q&A on Current Issues in Ethics.....

By the Ethics Committee

Ethical Question:

The Ethics Committee received a question from a therapist who has an adult male client who was sexually abused by his father. The father, after separating from his mother, moved to Florida and

the client reports that he is now writing a blog with a spiritual orientation. The client reports that his father's blog does not reveal himself as a pedophile who has never had treatment, but rather as a mental health professional, which he may be, in fact. The client is uncomfortable with the blog and the therapist is concerned also in that the blog is "advice giving". The therapist wants to know if there is a duty to report this. The father has not been charged with any crimes, although the client considers pursuing this at times.

Relevant ethical standards (?)

This is an example of a dilemma which may seem to be ethical in nature initially, but at closer look is primarily a legal one. The Ethics Committee does not dispense legal advice, but there are often relevant ethical standards that apply that can help guide decision making when confronted with a dilemma. In this particular scenario however, relevant standards are limited. There are ethical standards which address boundaries of competence which is the lynchpin enabling psychologists to fulfill other ethical obligations required by the Ethics Code. It is unclear if this individual is indeed a psychologist or just how or with what credentials he is presenting to his audience. One avenue to be explored would be to contact the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology, as it falls under their purview to protect the public from harm, and can therefore help clarify the relevancy of this issue.

The most obvious avenue to explore would be for the client to make a report to child protective services in Florida. An anonymous report is often accepted and even though no formal action may be taken, a record of this individual may be initiated in case there have been past or may be future reports. Although the report of child abuse is legally mandated in every state, there are differing interpretations regarding whether the past abuse of a current adult when a child must be reported.

A call to child protective agencies in both Kentucky and Florida may help clarify this. It will be important to carefully document these contacts including the names of the contact persons and dates of contact, as well as their feedback.

Of course what may have the biggest benefit is helping the client to process this personal history and decide how he wants to proceed.

Have an Idea or Contribution for the KPA e-newsletter?

Contact the KPA Central Office or Sean Reilley, Ph.D., KPA e-newsletter Editor at dr.sean.reilley@gmail.com. Deadlines for submission are the 15th of the month the newsletter is scheduled for distribution (Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct and Dec).

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