



Ohio Revised Code

Section 4732.17 Actions against applicants or license holders.

Effective: April 6, 2023

Legislation: House Bill 509

(A) Subject to division (F) of this section and except as provided in division (G) 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:

(1) Conviction, including a plea of guilty or no contest, of a felony, or of any offense involving moral turpitude, in a court of this or any other state or in a federal court;

(2) A judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for a felony or any offense involving moral turpitude in a court of this or any other state or in a federal court;

(3) Using fraud or deceit in the procurement of the license to practice psychology, independent school psychology, or school psychology or knowingly assisting another in the procurement of such a license through fraud or deceit;

(4) Accepting commissions or rebates or other forms of remuneration for referring persons to other professionals;

(5) Willful, unauthorized communication of information received in professional confidence;

(6) Being negligent in the practice of psychology, independent school psychology, or school psychology;

(7) Inability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care by reason of a mental, emotional, physiological, or pharmacological condition or substance abuse;

(8) Subject to section 4732.28 of the Revised Code, violating any rule of professional conduct promulgated by the board;



- (9) Practicing in an area of psychology for which the person is clearly untrained or incompetent;
- (10) An adjudication by a court, as provided in section 5122.301 of the Revised Code, that the person is incompetent for the purpose of holding the license. Such person may have the person's license issued or restored only upon determination by a court that the person is competent for the purpose of holding the license and upon the decision by the board that such license be issued or restored. The board may require an examination prior to such issuance or restoration.
- (11) Waiving the payment of all or any part of a deductible or copayment that a patient, pursuant to a health insurance or health care policy, contract, or plan that covers psychological services, would otherwise be required to pay if the waiver is used as an enticement to a patient or group of patients to receive health care services from that provider;
- (12) Advertising that the person will waive the payment of all or any part of a deductible or copayment that a patient, pursuant to a health insurance or health care policy, contract, or plan that covers psychological services, would otherwise be required to pay;
- (13) Any of the following actions taken by the agency responsible for authorizing or certifying the person to practice or regulating the person's practice of a health care occupation or provision of health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, as evidenced by a certified copy of that agency's records and findings for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees:
- (a) Limitation, revocation, or suspension of the person's license to practice;
 - (b) Acceptance of the person's license surrender;
 - (c) Denial of a license to the person;
 - (d) Refuse to renew or reinstate the person's license;
 - (e) Imposition of probation on the person;



- (f) Issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand against the person;
- (g) Other negative action or finding against the person about which information is available to the public.
- (14) Offering or rendering psychological services after a license issued under this chapter has expired due to a failure to timely register under section 4732.14 of the Revised Code or complete continuing education requirements;
- (15) Offering or rendering psychological services after a license issued under this chapter has been placed in retired status pursuant to section 4732.142 of the Revised Code;
- (16) Unless the person is an independent school psychologist or school psychologist licensed under this chapter:
 - (a) Offering or rendering independent school psychological or school psychological services after a license issued under this chapter has expired due to a failure to timely register under section 4732.14 of the Revised Code or complete continuing education requirements;
 - (b) Offering or rendering independent school psychological or school psychological services after a license issued under this chapter has been placed in retired status pursuant to section 4732.142 of the Revised Code.
- (17) Violating any adjudication order or consent agreement adopted by the board;
- (18) Failure to submit to mental, cognitive, substance abuse, or medical evaluations, or a combination of these evaluations, ordered by the board under division (E) of this section.
- (B) Notwithstanding divisions (A)(11) and (12) of this section, sanctions shall not be imposed against any license holder who waives deductibles and copayments:
 - (1) In compliance with the health benefit plan that expressly allows such a practice. Waiver of the deductibles or copays shall be made only with the full knowledge and consent of the plan purchaser,



payer, and third-party administrator. Such consent shall be made available to the board upon request.

(2) For professional services rendered to any other person licensed pursuant to this chapter to the extent allowed by this chapter and the rules of the board.

(C) For any of the reasons specified in division (A) of this section, the board may do one or more of the following:

(1) Refuse to issue a license to an applicant;

(2) Issue a reprimand to a license holder;

(3) Suspend the license of a license holder;

(4) Revoke the license of a license holder;

(5) Limit or restrict the areas of practice of an applicant or a license holder;

(6) Require mental, substance abuse, or physical evaluations, or any combination of these evaluations, of an applicant or a license holder;

(7) Require remedial education and training of an applicant or a license holder.

(D) When it revokes the license of a license holder under division (C)(4) of this section, the board may specify that the revocation is permanent. An individual subject to permanent revocation is forever thereafter ineligible to hold a license, and the board shall not accept an application for reinstatement of the license or issuance of a new license.

(E) When the board issues a notice of opportunity for a hearing on the basis of division (A)(7) of this section, the supervising member of the board, with cause and upon consultation with the board's executive director and the board's legal counsel, may compel the applicant or license holder to submit to mental, cognitive, substance abuse, or medical evaluations, or a combination of these evaluations, by a person or persons selected by the board. Notice shall be given to the applicant or



license holder in writing signed by the supervising member, the executive director, and the board's legal counsel. The applicant or license holder is deemed to have given consent to submit to these evaluations and to have waived all objections to the admissibility of testimony or evaluation reports that constitute a privileged communication. The expense of the evaluation or evaluations shall be the responsibility of the applicant or license holder who is evaluated.

(F) Before the board may take action under this section, written charges shall be filed with the board by the secretary and a hearing shall be had thereon in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, except as follows:

(1) On receipt of a complaint that any of the grounds listed in division (A) of this section exist, the state board of psychology may suspend a license issued under this chapter prior to holding a hearing in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code if it determines, based on the complaint, that there is an immediate threat to the public. A telephone conference call may be used to conduct an emergency meeting for review of the matter by a quorum of the board, taking the vote, and memorializing the action in the minutes of the meeting.

After suspending a license pursuant to division (F)(1) of this section, the board shall notify the license holder of the suspension in accordance with section 119.07 of the Revised Code. If the individual whose license is suspended fails to make a timely request for an adjudication under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the board shall enter a final order permanently revoking the license.

(2) The board shall adopt rules establishing a case management schedule for pre-hearing procedures by the hearing examiner or presiding board member. The schedule shall include applicable deadlines related to the hearing process, including all of the following:

(a) The date of the hearing;

(b) The date for the disclosure of witnesses and exhibits;

(c) The date for the disclosure of the identity of expert witnesses and the exchange of written reports;



(d) The deadline for submitting a request for the issuance of a subpoena for the hearing as provided under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code and division (F)(4) of this section.

(3) Either party to the hearing may submit a written request to the other party for a list of witnesses and copies of documents intended to be introduced at the hearing. The request shall be in writing and shall be served not less than thirty-seven days prior to the hearing, unless the hearing officer or presiding board member grants an extension of time to make the request. Not later than thirty days before the hearing, the responding party shall provide the requested list of witnesses, summary of their testimony, and copies of documents to the requesting party, unless the hearing officer or presiding board member grants an extension. Failure to timely provide a list or copies requested in accordance with this section may, at the discretion of the hearing officer or presiding board member, result in exclusion from the hearing of the witnesses, testimony, or documents.

(4) In addition to subpoenas for the production of books, records, and papers requested under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, either party may ask the board to issue a subpoena for the production of other tangible items.

The person subject to a subpoena for the production of books, records, papers, or other tangible items shall respond to the subpoena at least twenty days prior to the date of the hearing. If a person fails to respond to a subpoena issued by the board, after providing reasonable notice to the person, the board, the hearing officer, or both may proceed with enforcement of the subpoena pursuant to section 119.09 of the Revised Code.

(G) The board shall not refuse to issue a license to an applicant because of a conviction or plea of guilty or no contest to an offense or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction, unless the refusal is in accordance with section 9.79 of the Revised Code.