# Medical Psychology Practice Act

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Medical Psychology Practice Act

§1360.51. Short title

This Part may be cited as the "Medical Psychology Practice Act".


§1360.52. Definitions

As used in this Part the following words, terms, and phrases have the meaning ascribed to them in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

(1) "Board" means the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners as established in R.S. 37:1263.

(2) "Drug" means the same as the term "drug" as defined in R.S. 40:961(16), including controlled substances except narcotics, but shall be limited only to those agents related to the diagnosis and treatment or management of mental, nervous, emotional, behavioral, substance abuse, or cognitive disorders. Nothing in this Part shall be construed to permit a medical psychologist to administer or prescribe a narcotic.

(3) "LAMP" means the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists.

(4) "LSBEP" means the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

(5) "Medical psychologist" or "MP" means a psychological practitioner who has undergone specialized training in clinical psychopharmacology and has passed a national proficiency examination in psychopharmacology approved by the board. Such practice specifically includes the authority to administer, prescribe, and distribute without charge, drugs as defined in this Part.

(6) "Medical Psychology Advisory Committee" means a committee, established by the board for purposes as defined in this Part.

(7) "Medical psychology" means that profession of the health sciences which deals with the examination, diagnosis, psychological, pharmacologic and other somatic treatment and/or management of mental, nervous, emotional, behavioral, substance abuse, or cognitive disorders, and specifically includes the authority to administer, distribute without charge and/or prescribe drugs as defined in this Part. In addition, the practice of medical psychology includes those practices defined in R.S. 37:2352(5).

(8) "Mental, nervous, emotional, behavioral, substance abuse and cognitive disorders" means those disorders, illnesses, or diseases listed in either the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association or the mental, nervous, emotional, behavioral, substance abuse, and cognitive disorders listed in the International Classification of Diseases published by the World Health Organization.

(9) "Narcotics" means those natural or synthetic opioid analgesics, and their derivatives used to relieve pain.

(10) "Nurse" for the purpose of this Part means a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse.

(11) "Physician" means an individual licensed by the board to engage in the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana.


§1360.53. Powers and duties of the board

The board shall have and exercise with respect to medical psychologists, all powers and duties granted to it by R.S. 37:1261 et seq., relative to physicians. In addition, the board shall have the authority to:

(1) Establish and publish standards of medical psychology practice in accordance with those developed and accepted by the profession.

(2) Approve, deny, revoke, suspend, renew and reinstate licensure or certification of duly qualified applicants.

(3) Adopt, promulgate, revise, and enforce orders, rules, and regulations for initial licensure, renewal and certificates of advanced practice as the board may deem necessary to ensure the competency of applicants, the protection of the public and proper administration of this Part in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

(4) Conduct hearings on charges calling for the denial, suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew a license or certificate.


§1360.54. License required

No one shall engage in the practice of medical psychology, or hold himself out as a medical psychologist in this state unless licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Part.
§1360.55. Qualifications of applicants

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Part or other law, on or before January 1, 2010, any medical psychologist shall be issued a medical psychology license by the board upon satisfaction of all of the following criteria:

(1) Holds a current and unrestricted license in good standing to practice psychology issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

(2) Holds a current and unrestricted certificate of prescriptive authority issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

(3) Holds a controlled and dangerous substance permit issued by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.

(4) Holds a controlled substance registration issued by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

B. After January 1, 2010, the board shall issue a medical psychology license to applicants who submit an application upon a form and in such a manner as the board prescribes and who furnish evidence to the board which meets all of the following criteria:

(1) Holds a current and unrestricted license in good standing to practice psychology issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

(2) Has successfully graduated with a post-doctoral master's degree in clinical psychopharmacology from a regionally accredited institution or has completed equivalent training to the post-doctoral master's degree approved by the board. The curriculum shall include instruction in anatomy and physiology, biochemistry, neurosciences, pharmacology, psychopharmacology, clinical medicine/pathophysiology, and health assessment, including relevant physical and laboratory assessment.

(3) Has passed a national exam in psychopharmacology approved by the board.

C. Medical psychologists licensed by the board shall be eligible for a controlled and dangerous substance permit and registration issued by the state and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency.


§1360.56. Consultation and collaboration for medical psychologists without a certificate of advanced practice

A. Medical psychologists shall prescribe only in consultation and collaboration with the patient’s primary or attending physician, and with the concurrence of that physician.

B. The medical psychologist shall also re-consult with the patient’s physician prior to making changes in the patient’s medication treatment protocol, as established with the physician, or as otherwise directed by the physician. The medical psychologist and the physician shall document the consultation in the patient’s medical record.

C. In the event a patient does not have a primary or attending physician, the medical psychologist shall not prescribe for that patient.

D. The board shall promulgate rules relating to how the consultation and collaboration shall be affected in consultation with the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee.


§1360.57. Certificate of advanced practice

Medical psychologists who satisfy the requirements specified by R.S. 37:1360.55(A) of this Part and who possess all of the following additional qualifications to the satisfaction of the board shall be issued a certificate of advanced practice:

(1) Three years of experience practicing as a medical psychologist. For those individuals licensed under R.S. 37:1360.55(A), such experience shall be deemed to have commenced with the issuance of the original certificate of prescriptive authority issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

(2) Treatment of a minimum of one hundred patients including twenty-five or more involving the use of major psychotropics and twenty-five or more involving the use of major antidepressants which demonstrate the competence of the medical psychologist.

(3) The recommendation of two collaborating physicians, each of whom holds an unconditional license to practice medicine in Louisiana, and who are each familiar with the applicant’s competence to practice medical psychology.

(4) The recommendation of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee.

(5) The completion of a minimum of one hundred hours of continuing medical education relating to the use of medications in the management of patients with psychiatric illness commencing with the issuance of a certificate of prescriptive authority by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists prior to January 1, 2010, or by the board after this date.


§1360.58. Issuance and renewal of license

A. The board shall issue a license or certificate to any person who meets the qualifications provided for in this Part and the rules and regulations of the board, and who pays the respective fees fixed by the board.

B. A license or certificate issued under the provisions of this Part shall be subject to annual renewal and shall expire and become null and void unless renewed in the manner prescribed by the board.


§1360.59. Designation of license

A. A license or certificate issued under this Part shall designate the licensee’s status with respect to advanced practice.

B. Any individual who is issued a license as a medical psychologist under the provisions of this Part may use the words “medical psychologist” or “psychologist” or may use the letters “MP” in connection with his name to denote licensure.


§1360.60. Reinstatement of license

A. Any license or certificate suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted by the board may be reinstated by the board.

B. A license or certificate that has expired without renewal may be reinstated by the board for a period of two years from the date of expiration, provided the applicant is otherwise eligible under the provisions of this Part, pays the applicable fees, and satisfies the continuing education and such other requirements as may be established by the board.


§1360.61. Standards of practice for medical psychologists

A. Medical psychologists shall be authorized to administer and prescribe only drugs recognized and customarily used for the management of mental, nervous, emotional, behavioral, substance abuse, and cognitive diseases or disorders.

B. Standards for the treatment or management of common complications of the drug therapy provided by medical psychologists will be set forth in rules and regulations which shall be promulgated and adopted by the board, in consultation with the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

C. Medical psychologists may not order, administer, prescribe, or distribute narcotics, as defined in this Part.

D. Nothing in this Part shall be interpreted or construed as permitting a medical psychologist to pharmacologically treat patients for other primary medical conditions, unless specifically defined in and authorized by the board in such rules and regulations as might be necessary.

E. Practitioners licensed under this Part may order and interpret laboratory studies and other medical diagnostic procedures, as necessary for adequate pretreatment health screening, diagnosis of mental, nervous, emotional, behavioral, substance abuse, and cognitive disorders and treatment maintenance, including those necessary for the monitoring of potential side-effects associated with medications prescribed by the medical psychologist.

F. Medical psychologists shall maintain Basic Life Support certification.

G. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, nothing in this Part shall prohibit or restrict medical psychologists, licensed under the provisions of this Part, from employing or otherwise utilizing psychological technicians or psychometricians to assist in the provision of non-medical psychological services.

(1) Psychological technicians or psychometricians shall be authorized to administer psychological tests and provide other technical, ancillary non-medical psychological services as specifically ordered by the medical psychologist.

(2) Psychological technicians or psychometricians shall minimally hold a bachelor’s degree in psychology from an accredited college or university.

(3) Psychological technicians or psychometricians shall administer psychological tests or provide other technical,
ancillary non-medical psychological services only under the
general supervision of the medical psychologist.

(4) The medical psychologist employing or otherwise utilizing
the services of a psychological technician or psychometrician
assumes the professional responsibility and liability for all
services and actions undertaken by the psychological
technician or psychometrician acting on behalf of the medical
psychologist.

(5) The medical psychologist shall provide the board, in such
manner and form as directed by the board, with the name and
credentials of any psychological technician or psychometrician
under his or her supervision.

(6) Psychological technicians or psychometrician in the
employ or otherwise utilized by a medical psychologist under
the provisions of this Part may provide other technical,
ancillary non-medical psychological services as might be
approved by the board.

(7) The board, in consultation with the Medical Psychology
Advisory Committee, shall have the authority to promulgate
such rules and regulations necessary to otherwise govern the
activities of psychological technicians or psychometricians.


§1360.62. Standards of practice for medical psychologists
holding certificates of advanced practice

A. Patients receiving care from a medical psychologist who
holds a certificate of advanced practice issued under this Part
shall have an established primary, attending, or referring
physician licensed by the board who shall be responsible for
the patient's overall medical care.

B. The primary, attending, or referring physician shall evaluate
the patient for medical conditions in accordance with
customary practice standards, and as might be indicated based
on the medications that the patient is receiving and/or risk
factors that may be present. If the patient has been referred
to a medical psychologist holding a certificate of advanced
practice for the express purpose of evaluation and treatment
to include drug management by the primary, attending, or
referring physician, this condition shall be considered met.

C. The medical psychologist shall provide the primary,
attending, or referring physician with a summary of the
treatment planned at the initiation of treatment.

D. The medical psychologist shall provide the primary,
attending, or referring physician with follow up reports as may
be dictated by the patient's condition.

E. The medical psychologist shall provide the patient's
primary, attending, or referring physician with a summary of
the patient's condition and treatment no less than annually.

F. The requirements for Subsections C, D, and E of this Section
shall be considered satisfied if the medical psychologist
provides the physician with a copy of the initial examination
and follow up visit records.


§1360.63. Medical Psychology Advisory Committee

A. A Medical Psychology Advisory Committee shall be
established by the board for the purpose of reviewing and
recommending action on application for licensure,
recommending educational requirements for other medical
activities that may be provided by medical psychologists,
recommending changes in related statutes and rules, as well
as other activities as might be requested by the board.

B. The Medical Psychology Advisory Committee shall consist
of the following five members selected by the board:

(1) One member shall be a physician who is certified by the
American Board of Medical Specialties or the American
Osteopathic Association equivalent in the specialty of
psychiatry and who is licensed to practice medicine in this
state selected from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana
State Medical Society and who is recommended by the
Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association and the Louisiana
Academy of Medical Psychologists.

(2) Four members shall be medical psychologists selected
from a list of names recommended by the Louisiana Academy
of Medical Psychologists.

C. The executive director of the board shall serve as an ex
officio, non-voting member of the committee.

D. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the board. A
vacancy in an unexpired term shall be filled in the manner of
the original appointment.

E. The committee may meet as needed but shall meet at least
twice a year. A majority of the members of the committee
shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.
Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 37

F. Members of the committee shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attendance at meetings and other official business on behalf of the committee or the board.


§1360.64. Privileged communications

A. In judicial proceedings, whether civil, criminal, or juvenile, legislative and administrative proceedings, and proceedings preliminary and ancillary thereto, a patient or his legal representative, may refuse to disclose or prevent the disclosure of confidential information, including information contained in administrative records, communicated to a medical psychologist licensed under this Part, or persons reasonably believed by the patient to be so licensed, or to their employees or other persons under their supervision, for the purpose of diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of any mental or emotional condition or disorder.

B. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the medical psychologist is presumed to be authorized to claim the privilege on behalf of the patient.

C. This privilege may not be claimed by or on behalf of the patient in the following circumstances:

(1) Where child abuse, elder abuse, or the abuse of individuals with disabilities or incompetent individuals is known or reasonably suspected.

(2) Where the validity of a will of a deceased former patient is contested or his mental or emotional condition is at issue otherwise on judicial or administrative proceedings.

(3) Where the information is necessary for the defense of the medical psychologist in a malpractice action brought by the patient.

(4) Where an immediate threat of physical violence against a clearly identified victim or victims is disclosed to the medical psychologist.

(5) In the context of civil commitment proceedings, where an immediate threat of self-inflicted damage is disclosed to the medical psychologist.

(6) Where the patient puts his mental state in issue by alleging mental or emotional damages or condition in any judicial or administrative proceedings.

(7) Where the patient is examined pursuant to court order.

(8) Where the board is conducting an investigation or hearing.


§1360.65. Continuing medical education

A. Medical psychologists shall annually complete a minimum of twenty hours of approved continuing medical education relevant to the practice of medical psychology.

B. Approved sponsors of continuing medical education for practitioners licensed under this Part shall include, the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists, the Louisiana State Medical Society, sponsors accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education approved to offer Category 1 educational activities, and other sponsors as may be approved by the board.

C. A minimum of twenty-five percent of a medical psychologist’s continuing medical education shall be provided by the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology.

D. In addition to meeting the requirements for continuing medical education, as required in Subsection A of this Section, medical psychologists shall annually complete a minimum of fifteen hours of continuing education in psychology. Approved sponsors for this additional requirement shall include the Louisiana Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association, and other sponsors as may be approved by the board.

E. A minimum of two of the required hours of continuing medical education or additional continuing education, as set forth in this Section, shall specifically involve ethics, as relevant to the practice of medical psychology.


§1360.66. Fees

The board, under its authority established in R.S. 37:1281, shall fix fees for the purpose of administering the provisions of this Part.


§1360.67. Causes for refusal to issue, suspension or revocation of licenses, permits, and certificates

A. The board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke any license or certificate, or impose probationary or other
restrictions on any license or certificate issued under this Part for the following causes:

(1) Conviction of a felony.

(2) Conviction of any crime or offense arising out of or relating to the practice of medical psychology.

(3) Fraud, deceit, or perjury in obtaining a diploma or certificate.

(4) Fraud or deception in applying for or procuring a license to practice psychology or medical psychology.

(5) Making any fraudulent or untrue statement to the board.

(6) Refusal to appear before the board after having been ordered to do so in writing by a duly authorized agent of the board.

(7) Habitual or recurring abuse of drugs, including alcohol, which affect the central nervous system and which are capable of inducing physiological or psychological dependence.

(8) Refusing to submit to the examinations and inquiry of an examining committee of physicians appointed or designated by the board to inquire into an applicant or licensee’s physical and mental fitness and ability to practice medical psychology with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

(9) Prescribing, dispensing, or administering legally controlled substances or any dependency-inducing medication without legitimate medical justification therefore or in other than a legal or legitimate manner.

(10) Impersonation of another licensed practitioner.

(11) Incompetence.

(12) Voluntary or involuntary commitment or interdiction by due process of law.

(13) Failure to self-report in writing to the board any personal action which constitutes a violation of this Part within thirty days of the occurrence.

(14) Solicitation of patients or self-promise through advertising or communication, public or private, which is fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading.

(15) Making or submitting false, deceptive, or unfounded claims, reports, or opinions to any patient, insurance company or indemnity association, company, individual, or governmental authority for the purpose of obtaining any thing of economic value.

(16) Soliciting, accepting, or receiving any thing of economic value in return for and based on the referral of patients to another person, firm, or corporation or in return for the prescription of medications.

(17) Unprofessional conduct.

(18) Continuing or recurring practice which fails to satisfy the prevailing and usually accepted standards of medical psychology practice in this state.

(19) Gross, willful, and continued overcharging for professional services.

(20) Abandonment of a patient.

(21) Knowingly performing any act which, in any way, assists an unqualified person to practice medical psychology, or having professional connection with or lending one’s name to an illegal practitioner.

(22) Inability to practice medical psychology with reasonable skill or safety to patients because of mental illness or deficiency; physical illness, including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process or loss of motor skills; or excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol.

(23) Violation of ethical principles and codes of conduct as promulgated by the American Psychological Association or violation of any code of ethics adopted in the rules and regulations of the board or other immoral, unprofessional, or dishonorable conduct as defined in the rules and regulations of the board.

(24) Practicing medical psychology in such a manner as to endanger the welfare of patients, including but not limited to:

(a) Harassment, intimidation, or abuse, sexual or otherwise, of a patient.

(b) Engaging in sexual intercourse or other sexual contact with a patient.

(c) Gross malpractice, repeated malpractice, or gross negligence in the practice of medical psychology.

(25) Use of repeated untruthful, deceptive, or improbable statements concerning the licensee’s qualifications or the effects or results of proposed treatment, including functioning
outside of one's professional competence established by education, training, and experience.

(26) Exercising undue influence in such a manner as to exploit the patient for financial or other personal advantage to the practitioner or a third party.

(27) Refusal of a licensing authority of another state to issue or renew a license, permit, or certificate to practice psychology or medical psychology in that state or the revocation, suspension, or other restriction imposed on a license, permit, or certificate issued by such licensing authority which prevents or restricts practice in that state, or the surrender of a license, permit, or certificate issued by another state when criminal or administrative charges are pending or threatened against the holder of such license, permit, or certificate.

(28) Violation of any rules and regulations of the board, or any provisions of this Part.

B. The board may, as a probationary condition, or as a condition of the reinstatement of any license or certificate suspended or revoked hereunder, require the license or certificate holder to pay all costs of the board proceedings, including investigator, stenographer, and attorney fees, and to pay a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars.

C. Any license or certificate suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted by the board may be reinstated by the board.

D. The board’s final decision in an adjudication proceeding conducted pursuant to this Section, other than by consent order, agreement, or other informal disposition, shall constitute a public record, and the board may disclose and provide such final decision to any person, firm, or corporation, or to the public generally. The board’s disposition of an adjudication proceeding by consent order shall not constitute a public record, but the board shall have authority and discretion to disclose such disposition.

E. No judicial order staying or enjoining the effectiveness or enforcement of a final decision or order of the board in an adjudication proceeding, whether issued pursuant to R.S. 49:964(C) or otherwise, shall be effective, or be issued to be effective, beyond the earlier of either:

(1) One hundred twenty days from the date on which the board's decision or order was rendered.

(2) The date on which a court of competent jurisdiction enters judgment in a proceeding for judicial review of the board's decision or order issued pursuant to R.S. 49:964.

F. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no judicial order staying, enjoining, or continuing an adjudication proceeding before, or a preliminary, procedural, or intermediate decision, ruling, order, or action of, the board shall be effective or issued to be effective, whether pursuant to R.S. 49:964 or otherwise, prior to the exhaustion of all administrative remedies and issuance of a final decision or order by the board.

G. No order staying or enjoining a final decision or order of the board shall be issued unless the district court finds that the applicant or petitioner has established that the issuance of the stay does neither of the following:

(1) Threaten harm to other interested parties, including individuals for whom the applicant or petitioner may render medical psychology services.

(2) Constiute a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this state.

H. No stay of a final decision or order of the board shall be granted ex parte. The court shall schedule a hearing on a request for a stay order within ten days from filing of the request. The court's decision to either grant or deny the stay order shall be rendered within five days after the conclusion of the hearing.


§1360.68. Persons and practices not affected

Nothing in this Part shall be construed as preventing or restricting the practice, services, or activities of any individual:

(1) Licensed in this state by any other law from engaging in the profession or occupation for which he is licensed.

(2) Employed as a medical psychologist by the United States government in the event the individual practices solely under the direction or control of a United States governmental agency by which he is employed.


§1360.69. Orders to nurses

Notwithstanding any law or rule or regulation to the contrary, including but not limited to Chapter 11 of this Title, it shall be considered to be within the scope of the practice of nursing as defined in Chapter 11 of this Title for a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, and any other health care provider licensed under Chapter 11 of this Title to execute and
effectuate any order or direction otherwise within the scope of
the practice of said health care provider when that order is
within the scope of practice of medical psychology and given
to him by a medical psychologist licensed under Part VI of
Chapter 15 of this Title, and, when given in an institutional
setting, the order is within the scope of the privileges granted
to the medical psychologist by that institution.


§1360.70. Injunction; penalty; attorney fees; costs

A. The board, through its president or the president’s
designee, may cause to issue in any competent court, a writ of
injunction enjoining any person from practicing medical
psychology in this state as defined herein until such person
obtains a license under the provisions of this Part. This
injunction shall not be subject to being released upon bond.

B. In the suit for an injunction, the board, through its
president or designee, may demand of the defendant a
penalty of not more than five hundred dollars, and attorney
fees, in addition to court costs. This judgment for penalty,
attorney fees, and court costs may be rendered in the same
judgment in which the injunction is made absolute.

C. The trial of the proceeding by injunction shall be summary
and by the judge without a jury.


§1360.71. Penalties

A. It shall be a misdemeanor for any individual:

(1) Not licensed under this Part to represent himself as a
medical psychologist.

(2) Not licensed under this Part to engage in the practice of
medical psychology.

(3) To represent himself as a medical psychologist during the
time that his license as a medical psychologist shall be
suspended or revoked or lapsed.

(4) To otherwise violate the provisions of this Part.

B. Such misdemeanor shall be punishable upon conviction by
imprisonment for not more than six months, or by a fine of not
less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred
dollars, or both. Each violation shall be deemed a separate
offense.

C. Such misdemeanor shall be prosecuted by the district
attorney of the judicial district in which the offense was
committed in the name of the people of the state of Louisiana.


§1360.72. Transfer of files

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists shall
provide the board with copies of all files relating to medical
psychologists.