

481—884.2(147,154B,272C) Purpose and scope. The purpose of this rule is to set the minimum standards of practice for psychologists practicing in Iowa. The practice of psychology is occurring in Iowa if the patient or examinee is located in Iowa. Psychologists will ensure any interns or residents under supervision adhere to the minimum standards of practice and must comply with the requirements set forth in 481—subrule 880.2(6). The APA Code of Ethics, published January 1, 2017, is applicable and enforceable to the extent it does not conflict with any standards of practice set forth in this chapter. A psychologist may be disciplined for any violation of this chapter or the APA Code of Ethics.

884.2(1) Access to records.

a. Clinical records generally. When records are requested along with a signed release from the patient or the patient's personal representative, a psychologist will provide requested clinical records in a timely manner unless there is a ground for denial under HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, PL No. 104-191, August 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 1936).

b. Psychotherapy notes. A psychologist is not required to release psychotherapy notes in response to a signed release; if a psychologist chooses to release psychotherapy notes, a signed release specifically authorizing the release of those notes will be provided.

c. Substance use disorder treatment programs. Psychologists who practice in a federally assisted substance use disorder treatment program, also known as a Part 2 program, are prohibited from disclosing any information that would identify a patient as having a substance use disorder unless the patient provides written consent in compliance with Part 2 requirements.

d. Clinical records of minor patients. A minor patient is a patient who is under the age of 18 and is not emancipated. A psychologist is not required to release the clinical records of a minor patient to the minor's personal representative if releasing such records is not in the minor's best interest. When a minor patient reaches the age of 18, the clinical records belong to the patient.

e. Clinical records of deceased patients. A psychologist will provide the clinical records of a deceased patient to the deceased patient's executor upon a written request accompanied by a copy of the patient's death certificate and a copy of the legal document identifying the requestor as the patient's executor.

f. Forensic records. A psychologist will provide forensic records consistent with the APA Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology published January 2011.

g. Board. A psychologist shall provide clinical records, test data, or forensic records to the board as requested during the investigation of a complaint. A psychologist is not required to obtain a patient release to send such information to the board because the board is a health oversight agency.

h. Exceptions. These rules do not apply when there is a legal basis for not disclosing requested information.

884.2(2) Psychological testing. A psychologist may administer psychological tests and assessments to a patient or examinee if the psychologist has appropriate training for any psychological test or assessment utilized and the test or assessment is scientifically founded.

a. Use of proctors. A psychologist may delegate the administration of a standardized test, intelligence test, or objective personality assessment to an appropriately trained individual. The psychologist is responsible for supervising any proctors.

b. Release of test data. A psychologist will not provide test data to any person, with the exception that the test data with proper written release may be disclosed to a licensed psychologist designated by the patient or examinee. A psychologist who receives test data in this manner shall not further disseminate the test data.

c. Release of test materials. A psychologist shall not disclose test materials to any person, except for another licensed psychologist who has been designated in writing by the subject of a psychological test to receive the records associated with the psychological testing of the subject. A psychologist shall not disclose test materials in any administrative, judicial, or legislative proceeding.

884.2(3) Judicial proceedings. Prior to participating in a judicial proceeding, a psychologist will become familiar with the rules governing the proceeding. A psychologist will understand and clearly identify the psychologist's role in the proceeding.

a. Licensure. A license to practice psychology in Iowa or an exemption from licensure is not required solely to testify as an expert witness in court, if the psychologist did not personally examine the examinee. A psychologist who personally examines an examinee located in Iowa for the purpose of providing an expert opinion is required to be licensed or exempt from licensure at the time of the evaluation.

b. Custody evaluations. A psychologist who performs a child custody evaluation will comply with the APA Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings published December 2010.

884.2(4) Telepsychology. A psychologist may practice telepsychology provided the following are met:

a. The psychologist must be licensed or be exempt from licensure in the jurisdiction where the patient or examinee is located.

b. Prior to initiating telepsychology with a new patient or examinee, a psychologist will take reasonable steps to verify the identity and location of the patient or examinee.

c. A psychologist will ensure informed consent for telepsychology includes a description of any limitations of services as a result of the technology utilized.

d. A psychologist will gain competency in the use of a particular technology prior to utilizing it in practice. A psychologist shall only use technologies that are secure and functioning properly.

e. A psychologist will apply the same ethical and professional standards of care and professional practice that are required when providing in-person psychological services. If the same standard of care cannot be met with telepsychology, a psychologist will not utilize telepsychology.

884.2(5) Records. A psychologist will complete clinical records as soon as practicable to ensure continuity of services. All clinical records shall be completed within 30 days after the service or evaluation is complete unless there are significant extenuating circumstances. Clinical records and psychotherapy notes will be retained for at least seven years after the last date of service, or until at least three years after a minor reaches the age of 18, whichever is later. Forensic records will be completed and retained consistent with the APA Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology published January 2011.

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