

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

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#### **POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING LICENSEES WHO FAIL TO OBTAIN CONTINUING EDUCATION**

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The Board of Examiners in Psychology realizes that an individual may unintentionally fail to obtain continuing education in a timely manner. However, statute prohibits an individual from working as a Psychologist, Senior Psychological Examiner, or Psychological Examiner, unless he/she has obtained appropriate continuing education. Acknowledgement is given to the fact that this problem exists; however, the Board cannot overlook an individual failing to obtain continuing education. With this in mind, the Board has adopted the following procedures for discipline:

1. When it is discovered by Board or its staff that a licensee has failed to obtain continuing education credits in a timely manner, the licensee shall have three (3) months from the date that appears on the deficiency letter to obtain the required continuing education, and submit proof of completion to the Board staff.
2. If the licensee fails to comply by obtaining the deficient continuing education hours within the three (3) month time period, the licensee will be assessed a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) civil penalty and have one year to obtain the appropriate hours. The one hundred dollar (\$100.00) civil penalty and an agreement to obtain the appropriate number of hours will be contained in the form of an Agreed Citation which is an offer of settlement to pay the civil penalty and obtain the hours within one year. The licensee will have the option to accept the Agreed Citation, waiving the right to appear before the Board, or the licensee shall have the right to a contested case before the Board. The one hundred dollar (\$100.00) civil penalty will be reported on the Department's Disciplinary Action Report ("DAR") and will be noted on the practitioner's licensure profile.
3. Should the licensee fail to pay the one hundred dollar (\$100.00) civil penalty or obtain the appropriate number of continuing education hours through an Agreed Citation, the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of General Counsel will take further disciplinary action, which may include filing formal disciplinary charges against the licensee which will give the licensee the right to appear before the Board and could result in additional penalties, costs, and disciplinary action against the license, up to, and including revocation.

This Policy Statement was adopted by the Board of Examiners in Psychology on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January, 2009.

This Policy Statement was amended by the Board of Examiners in Psychology on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016.