

CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES
CHAPTER 383
PSYCHOLOGISTS

Section 20-186. Board of examiners. (a) The Board of Examiners of Psychologists shall consist of five members appointed by the governor, three of whom shall be practicing psychologists in good professional standing and licensed according to the provisions of this chapter and two of whom shall be public members. Each such member shall be a resident of this state. No member of said board shall be an elected or appointed officer of any professional association of psychologists or have been such an officer during the year immediately preceding his appointment. The governor shall designate one member as chairman of said board and shall fill any vacancy therein by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. No member shall serve for more than two full consecutive terms commencing after July 1, 1980. Members shall not be compensated for their services.

(b) Said board shall meet at least once during each calendar quarter and at such other times as the chairman deems necessary. Special meetings shall be held on the request of a majority of the board after notice in accordance with the provisions of section 1-21. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from office. Minutes of all meetings shall be recorded by the board. No member shall participate in the affairs of the board during the pendency of any disciplinary proceedings by the board against such member.

Section 20-186a. Duties of board of examiners. The Board of Examiners of Psychologists shall (1) hear and decide matters concerning suspension or revocation of licensure, (2) adjudicate complaints filed against practitioners licensed under this chapter and (3) impose sanctions where appropriate.

Section 20-187a. License required. Practice defined. No person shall practice psychology unless he has obtained a license as provided in section 20-188. The practice of psychology means the rendering of professional services under any title or description of services incorporating the words psychologist, psychological or psychology, to the public or to any public or private organization for a fee or other remuneration. Professional psychological services means the application, by persons trained in psychology, of established principles of learning, motivation, perception, thinking and emotional relationships to the assessment, diagnosis, prevention, treatment and amelioration of psychological problems or emotional or mental disorders of individuals or groups, including but not limited to counseling, guidance, psychotherapy, behavior modification and personnel evaluation, with persons or groups in the areas of work, family, school, marriage and personal relationships; measuring and testing of personality, intelligence, aptitudes, emotions, public opinion, attitudes and skills; and research relating to human behavior.

Section 20-188. Examination; qualifications. Before granting a license to a psychologist, the department shall, except as provided in section 20-190, require any applicant therefor to pass an examination in psychology prescribed by the department with the advice and consent of the board. Each applicant shall pay a fee of five hundred sixty-five dollars, and shall satisfy the department that such applicant: (1) Has received the doctoral degree based on a program of studies whose content was primarily psychological from an educational institution approved in accordance with section 20-189; and (2) has had at least one year's experience that meets the requirements established in regulations adopted by the department, in consultation with the board, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. The department shall establish a passing score with the consent of the board. Any certificate granted by the board of examiners prior to June 24, 1969, shall be deemed a valid license permitting continuance of profession subject to the provisions of this chapter. An applicant who is licensed or certified as a psychologist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States may substitute two years of licensed or certified work experience in the practice of psychology, as defined in section 20-187a, in lieu of the requirements of subdivision (2) of this section.

Section 20-189. Graduation from approved education program required. Applicants shall graduate from an education program approved by the board with the consent of the commissioner of public health.

Section 20-190. License without examination of out-of-state licensees and practitioners, holders of diploma from national board. An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall present evidence satisfactory to the Department of Public Health that the applicant is a currently practicing, competent practitioner and who at the time of application is licensed or certified by a similar board of another state whose standards, in the opinion of the department, are substantially similar to, or higher than, those of this state, or that the applicant holds a current certificate of professional qualification in psychology from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. The department may waive the examination for any person holding a diploma from a nationally recognized board or agency approved by the department, with the consent of the board of examiners. The department may require such applicant to provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant understands Connecticut laws and regulations relating to the practice of psychology. The fee for such license shall be five hundred sixty five dollars. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint. The department shall inform the board annually of the number of applications it receives for licensure by endorsement under this section.

Section 20-191a. Renewal of license. Each license issued under this chapter shall be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. Thirty days prior to the expiration date of each license under said section 19a-88, the department shall mail to the last-known address of each licensed psychologist an application for renewal in such form as said department determines. Each such application, on or before such expiration date, shall be returned to said department, together with a fee of the professional services fee for class I, as defined in section 33-1821, and the department shall thereupon issue a renewal license. In the event of failure of a psychologist to apply for such renewal license by such expiration date, he may so apply subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 19a-88.

Section 20-191b. Fees for lost license and verifying licensure. Section 20-191b is repealed, effective June 7, 1995.

Section 20-191c. Continuing education. (a) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, for registration periods beginning on and after October 1, 2014, each psychologist licensed in accordance with this chapter shall complete a minimum of ten hours of continuing education during each registration period. For purposes of this section, "registration period" means the twelve-month period for which a license has been renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88 and is current and valid. (b) Qualifying continuing education activities shall be related to the practice of psychology and shall include courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and postdoctoral institutes offered or approved by: (1) The American Psychological Association; (2) a regionally accredited institution of higher education graduate program; (3) a nationally recognized provider of continuing education seminars; (4) the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; or (5) a behavioral science organization that is professionally or scientifically recognized. Not more than five continuing education units during each registration period shall be completed via the Internet, distance learning or home study. On and after January 1, 2016, qualifying continuing education activities shall include not less than two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, including (A) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C) suicide prevention training. Qualifying continuing education activities may include a licensee's research-based presentation at a professional conference, provided not more than five continuing education units during each registration period shall be completed by such activities. A licensee who has earned a diploma from the American Board of Professional Psychology during the registration period may substitute the diploma for continuing education requirements for such registration period. For purposes of this section, "continuing education unit" means fifty to sixty minutes of participation in accredited continuing professional education.

(c) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from a provider of continuing education for all continuing education activities that are successfully completed and shall retain such certificate for not less than three years after the license renewal date for which the continuing education activity was completed. Upon the request of the Commissioner of Public Health a licensee shall submit such certificate to the Department of Public Health. A licensee who fails to comply with the continuing education requirements prescribed in this section may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 20-192.

(d) A licensee applying for license renewal for the first time shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements under subsection (a) of this section. In individual cases involving medical disability or illness, the Commissioner of Public Health may grant a waiver of the continuing education requirements or an extension of time within which to fulfill the continuing education requirements of this section to any licensee, provided the licensee submits to the department an application for waiver or extension of time on a form prescribed by the commissioner, along with a certification by a licensed physician of the disability or illness and such other documentation as may be required by the commissioner. The commissioner may grant a waiver or extension for a period not to exceed one registration period, except the commissioner may grant additional waivers or extensions if the medical disability or illness upon which a waiver or extension is granted continues beyond the period of the waiver or extension and the licensee applies for an additional waiver or extension. The commissioner may grant a waiver of the continuing education requirements to a licensee who is not engaged in active professional practice, in any form, during a registration period, provided the licensee submits a notarized application on a form prescribed by the commissioner prior to the end of the registration period. A licensee who is granted a waiver under the provisions of this subsection may not engage in professional practice until the licensee has met the continuing education requirements of this section.

(e) Any licensee granted a waiver of the continuing education requirements pursuant to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section shall be required to complete five hours of continuing education not later than six months after the date on which such licensee returns to active practice. In addition, such licensee shall comply with the certificate of completion requirements prescribed in subsection (c) of this section.

(f) Any licensee whose license has become void pursuant to section 19a-88 for one year or more and who applies to the department for reinstatement of such license pursuant to section 19a-14 shall submit with such application evidence documenting that such applicant has successfully completed ten hours of continuing education within the one-year period immediately preceding the date of application for reinstatement.

(g) The commissioner may accept continuing education activities completed by a licensee in another state or country to meet the requirements of this section.

Section 20-192. Disciplinary action: grounds: appeals. The board may take any action set forth in section 19a-17, if the license holder: Has been convicted of a felony; has been found by the board to have employed fraud or deceit in obtaining his license or in the course of any professional activity, to have violated any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted hereunder; to have acted negligently, incompetently or wrongfully in the conduct of his profession; practiced in an area of psychology for which he is not qualified; is suffering from physical or mental illness, emotional disorder or loss of motor skill, including but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process or is suffering from the abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals. The commissioner of public health may order a license holder to submit to a reasonable physical or mental examination if his physical or mental capacity to practice safely is the subject of an investigation. Said commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17. Notice of any contemplated action under said section, of the cause therefor and the date of hearing thereon shall be given and an opportunity for hearing afforded as provided in the regulations adopted by the commissioner of public health. The attorney general shall, upon request, furnish legal assistance to the board. Any person aggrieved by any action of the board may appeal therefrom as provided in section 4-183, except such appeal shall be made returnable to the judicial district where he resides. Such appeal shall have precedence over nonprivileged cases in respect to order of trial.

Section 20-193. False representation. Penalties. Any person not licensed as provided in this chapter who, except as provided in section 20-195, represents himself as a psychologist or, having had his license suspended or revoked continues to represent himself as a psychologist, or carries on the practice of psychology as defined in sections 20-187a and 20-188, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than five years or both, and each instance of patient contact or consultation which is in violation of this section shall be deemed a separate offense. Failure to renew a license in a timely manner shall not constitute a violation for the purposes of this section. Any such person shall be enjoined from such practice by the superior court upon application by the board. The department of public health may, on its own initiative or at the request of the board, investigate any alleged violation of the provisions of this chapter or any regulations adopted hereunder.

Section 20-194. Right to practice medicine not granted. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to grant to licensed psychologists the right to practice medicine as defined in section 20-9.

Section 20-195. Exempted activities and employment. (a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the activities and services of a graduate student, intern or resident in psychology, pursuing a course of study in an educational institution under the provisions of section 20-189, if such activities constitute a part of a supervised course of study. No license as a psychologist shall be required of a person holding a doctoral degree based on a program of studies whose content was primarily psychological from an educational institution approved under the provisions of section 20-189, provided such activities and services are necessary to satisfy the postdoctoral work experience as required by section 20-188. No license as a psychologist shall be required of a person holding a doctoral degree based on a program of studies whose content was primarily psychological from an educational institution approved under the provisions of Section 20-189, provided such activities and services are necessary to satisfy the postdoctoral work experience as required by section 20-188 as amended by public act 08-184. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any person in the salaried employ of any person, firm, corporation, educational institution or governmental agency when acting within the person's own organization. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the giving of accurate information concerning education and experience by any person in any application for employment. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent physicians, optometrists, chiropractors, members of the clergy, attorneys-at-law or social workers from doing work of a psychological nature consistent with accepted standards in their respective professions.

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent any person holding a certificate as school psychologist or school psychological examiner, granted by the State Board of Education, from using such title to describe his activities within an elementary or secondary school. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent any person who holds a standard certificate, granted by said board, as school psychologist or school psychological examiner from using such title to describe his activities within the private sector. Such activities within the private sector shall be limited to: (1) Evaluation, diagnosis, or test interpretation limited to assessment of intellectual ability, learning patterns, achievement, motivation, or personality factors directly related to learning problems in an educational setting; (2) short-term professional advisement and interpretive services with children or adults for amelioration or prevention of educationally-related problems; (3) educational or vocational consultation or direct educational services to schools, agencies, organizations or individuals, said consultation being directly related to learning problems; and, (4) development of educational programs such as designing more efficient and psychologically sound classroom situations and acting as a catalyst for teacher involvement in adaptations and innovations. Section 10-145b and regulations adopted by the State Board of Education concerning revocation of a standard certificate shall apply to a school psychologist or school psychological examiner who uses such title to describe activities within the private sector.

(c) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent any person employed by the state prior to July 1, 1985, with a title in the psychology series of the classified service from using a title in such series to describe his or her duties in the course of his or her employment with the state. The provisions of section 20-187a shall not apply to any person employed in such psychology series prior to July 1, 1985.

Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2016*) (a) As used in this section, "psychology technician" means a person who (1) holds a bachelor's or graduate degree in psychology or another mental health field, and (2) has undergone not less than eighty hours of training provided by a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 of the general statutes, including, but not limited to, (A) not less than four hours of education in professional ethics and best practices for the administration and scoring of objective psychological and neuropsychological tests, including, but not limited to, the American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct and legal obligations pertaining to patient confidentiality and reporting any suspicion of abuse or neglect of a patient, (B) not less than sixteen hours of studying and mastering information from psychological and neuropsychological testing manuals, (C) not less than twenty hours of direct observation of the administration and scoring of objective psychological and neuropsychological tests by the psychologist, and (D) not less than forty hours of administering and scoring objective psychological and neuropsychological tests in the presence of the psychologist.

(b) The services provided by psychology technicians include the administration and scoring of objective psychological or neuropsychological tests with specific, predetermined and manualized administrative procedures. The responsibilities of a psychology technician include, but are not limited to, observing and describing the behavior of the patient taking the test and the patient's test responses, but shall not include evaluation, interpretation or other judgments concerning the patient or the patient's test responses.

(c) A psychology technician may provide objective psychological or neuropsychological testing services under the supervision and direction of a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 of the general statutes, provided: (1) The psychologist is satisfied as to the ability and competency of the psychology technician; (2) services provided are consistent with the health and welfare of the patient and in keeping with the practice of psychology; and (3) such services are provided under the oversight, control and direction of the psychologist.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to the activities and services of a person who is enrolled in a psychology technician educational program acceptable to the American Psychological Association, provided such activities and services are incidental to the course of study.

(e) A psychology technician shall not: (1) Select tests; (2) conduct intake assessments; (3) conduct clinical interviews, including, but not limited to, patient interviews and collateral interviews of relatives, friends of the patient or other professionals associated with the patient; (4) interpret patient data; (5) communicate test results or treatment recommendations to patients; or (6) administer tests in educational institutions.