

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**By: Vicki R. Kenon  
Deputy Agency Clerk**IN RE: THE PETITION FOR DECLARATORY STATEMENT OF  
MICHELE M. DODDS, Ph.D.**

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**FINAL ORDER**

THIS MATTER came before the Board of Psychology ("Board") pursuant to Section 120.565, Florida Statutes, at a duly-noticed public meeting held by telephone conference call on September 14, 2001, for the purpose of considering the Petition for Declaratory Statement filed by Michele M. Dodds, Ph.D. ("Petitioner"). Notice of the Petition was published in the Florida Administrative Weekly on September 7, 2001, at Volume 27, Number 36. Having considered the petition, the Board makes the following findings and conclusions.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Petitioner has applied for licensure as a psychologist in the state of Florida but has not yet completed the post-doctoral supervised experience required by Section 490.005(1)(c).

2. That section provides that an applicant for licensure in Florida must submit proof of having had at least 2 years or 4,000 hours of experience in the field of psychology in association with or under the supervision of a licensed psychologist meeting the academic and experience requirements of Chapter 490 or the equivalent as determined by the Board.

3. That section further provides that the experience requirement may be met by work performed on or off the premises of the supervising psychologist if the off-

premises work is not the independent, private practice rendering of psychological services that does not have a psychologist as a member of the group actually rendering psychological services on the premises.

4. The Petitioner filed a petition for declaratory statement stating that she had arranged for Dr. Susan Erbaugh to act as her off-premises supervisor for the 2,000-hour post-doctoral training, and providing a copy of a document entitled "Post-Doctoral Supervision and Engagement Agreement."

5. The Agreement, signed by both the Petitioner and Dr. Erbaugh, outlines the terms of the relationship between the two during the Petitioner's supervised practice.

6. The Agreement leads the Board to conclude that during the supervised experience, the Petitioner will continue in her own private practice with Dr. Erbaugh practicing in another location while providing supervisory services to the Petitioner.

7. Petitioner asks whether her proposed post-doctoral supervision plan will fulfill the requirements of Florida law.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 120.565, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-4, Florida Administrative Code.

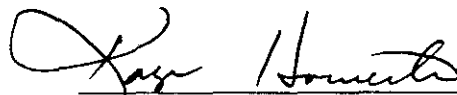
2. It is the opinion of the Board that the proposed supervisory relationship between the Petitioner and Dr. Erbaugh violates Section 490.005(1)(c), in that the Petitioner's proposed plan constitutes the independent, private practice rendering of psychological services that does not have a psychologist, other than the Petitioner herself, as a member of the group actually rendering psychological services on the premises.

3. The Board does not interpret Section 490.005(1)(c) to mean that the Petitioner herself may be the psychologist rendering psychological services on the premises of the Petitioner's practice.

4. This Order constitutes final agency action and may be appealed by any party pursuant to Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, and Rules 9.110 and 9.190, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, by filing a notice of appeal conforming to the requirements of Rule 9.110(d), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, both with the appropriate District Court of Appeal, accompanied by the appropriate filing fee, and with the department's clerk of agency proceedings, within thirty (30) days of rendition of this Order.

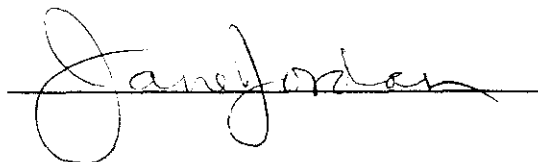
**DONE AND ORDERED** this 4 day of October, 2001.

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

  
Kaye Howerton, Executive Director  
for Herbert Goldstein, Ph.D., Chair

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was furnished by U.S. Mail to Michele F. Dodds, Ph.D., 3948 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 207, Edina, Minnesota 55424; and to David H. Goldstein, Esquire, 1201 Yale Place, #1808, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2001.



Michele F. Dodds, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist  
3948 West 50th Street  
Suite 207  
Edina, Minnesota 55424

September 12, 2001

Respected Members of the Board of Psychology:

I regret that, due to our national emergency and the ensuing difficulties with air travel, I will be unable to attend the Board meeting, as I had planned, on September, 14, 2001.

I would like to briefly reiterate that, in applying for licensure as a psychologist in the State of Florida, I am presenting with a Ph.D. from an APA accredited University program, an APA accredited internship and a projected total of 6,000 hours of supervised work experience. My petition, that is under consideration today, relates specifically to my request to complete the additional 2,000 hours in the setting in which I have practiced for the past 6 years - ie. a private practice setting with an oversight supervisor. My attorney, Mr. Goldstein, has suggested that the Florida statute related to supervision conducted in a private practice setting was likely designed to prevent inexperienced psychologists from assuming independent clinical practice prematurely and that, perhaps my petition to the Board is in a unique category that has not been previously addressed.

As you can see from your review of Dr. Erbaugh's credentials, she has a wide range of expertise and is highly regarded in our psychology community as a clinician, as a teacher and as a supervisor. Dr. Erbaugh also carries additional liability insurance to enable her to take responsibility for all supervisee cases.

On my own behalf, I would like to inform the Board that my intention in seeking licensure in Florida is to enable me to live in closer proximity to my daughter, who has settled there, and that it is my full intention to actively pursue my career in that setting for many years to come. I would like to thank all of you for your time and consideration in this matter, and as noted above, I deeply regret that I am unable to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Michele F. Dodds, Ph.D., LP*

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