

D.F.

STATE OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

By: Vicki R. Kenan  
Deputy Agency Clerk

IN RE: THE PETITION FOR DECLARATORY STATEMENT OF  
LISA G. BRIDGEWATER, Ph.D., LAURA C. HOHNECKER, Ph.D.,  
and CAROL A. WARTENBERG, Ph.D.

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 on December 1, 2000, in Tallahassee, Florida, for the purpose of considering the Petition for Declaratory Statement filed by Lisa G. Bridgewater, Ph.D., Laura C. Hohnecker, Ph.D., and Carol A. Wartenberg, Ph.D. ("Petitioners"). Having considered the petition, the Board makes the following findings and conclusions.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioners are in the private practice of psychology, and wish to implement internet-based career exploration services through use of the World Wide Web.
2. To receive professional services from a licensed psychologist under the Petitioners' plan, a client would log on to a Web site, where a complete description of the services, fees, and qualifications of the licensed psychologist would be posted.
3. Upon partial payment by credit card, the client would receive a booklet to complete, which would be designed to help assess the client's work-related strengths and weaknesses.
4. The client might choose to complete the booklet and use the results as a self-directed career exploration. However, if the client were to wish further information, he or she might complete both the booklet and two standardized vocational assessment

instruments ("The Self-Directed Search" and "The Wonderlic Basic Skills Test"). The remainder of the fee would be charged upon receipt of those materials.

5. Based on this information and data sources, the psychologist would prepare a personalized report describing the individual's apparent career strengths and weaknesses. Also included in the report would be a listing of other Web sites which the client might find helpful in furthering his or her career planning efforts.

6. Petitioners believe this proposed service would be nonclinical in context.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 120.565, Florida Statutes.

2. Rule 64B19-18.004(4), Florida Administrative Code, provides that a psychologist who uses test instruments in the practice of psychology must meet with the test subject face-to-face in a clinical setting unless the psychologist has delegated the work to a psychological intern, psychological trainee or psychological resident in a doctoral psychology program approved by the American Psychological Association.

3. The Board notes that the American Psychological Association is currently working on guidelines for internet-based practice of psychology, and that the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards plans to issue a statement on the subject in early 2001. The issue has been presented to this Board before, but the Board declines to issue a declaratory statement at this time without intensive study of the subject.

4. One area of concern is that the Board needs more information in order to determine whether the proposal put forth by Petitioners is indeed a clinical context

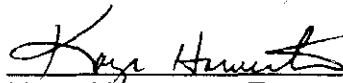
requiring face-to-face meeting of psychologist and client.

5. It is the opinion of the Board that no definitive response may be made at this time to Petitioners' Petition for Declaratory Statement.

6. 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 20 day of December, 2000.

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 Robert H. Woody, Esquire, P.O. Box 34880, Omaha, Nebraska 68134-0880; and by interoffice mail to Susan B. Bodell, Assistant Attorney General, Administrative Law Section, PL-01 The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order has been provided by certified mail to Lisa G. Bridgewater, 7501 NW 4th St., Suite 202, Plantation, Florida 33317, Laura C. Hohnecker, Ph.D., 7501 NW 4th St., Suite 202, Plantation, Florida 33317, Carol A. Watenberg, Ph.D., 7501 NW 4th St., Suite 202, Plantation, Florida 33314, Robert H. Woody, Esquire, P.O. Box 34880, Omaha, Nebraska 68134-0880, and interoffice delivery to Susan B. Bodell, Assistant Attorney General, Administrative Law Section, PL-01 The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050 at or before 5:00 p.m., this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008.

Connie Singleton

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR DECLARATORY STATEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Psychology, State of Florida, has received a Petition for Declaratory Statement from Lisa G. Bridgewater, Ph.D., P.A.; Laura C. Hohnecker, Ph.D., P.A.; Carol A. Wartenberg, Ph.D., P.A., in which the Petitioners request a declaratory statement from the Board. The Petitioners request a declaratory statement as to the following:

Whether it would be appropriate for a licensed psychologist to provide internet-based career exploration services via the world wide web.

Whether conditions for providing services set forth in the petition are consonant with all Florida Statutes and rules, including (but not limited to) Section 490.003 (4) Fla. Stat., and Rule 64B19-18.001, F.A.C.

A copy of the petition for Declaratory Statement may be obtained by writing: Kay Howerton, Board of Psychology, Department of Health, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3257.

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