

Before the West Virginia Board of Examiners of Psychologists

West Virginia Board of Examiners of Psychologists,

Complainant,

v.

Ethical Inquiry # 2025-6

Mary Straight, MA

Respondent.

Consent Agreement and Order

Pursuant to West Virginia Code § 30-21-6, the West Virginia Board of Examiners of Psychologists ("Board") commenced an investigation concerning licensed psychologist Mary Straight and possible violations of applicable codes of conduct as set forth in West Virginia Code R. § 17-6-1 *et seq.* The parties have reached an agreement as to the appropriate disposition of this matter, with consideration to necessary safeguards for protection of the public, and do hereby agree as follows:

Findings and Conclusion

1. The Board is a state entity created by West Virginia Code § 30-21-1 *et seq.*, and it is empowered to regulate the practice of psychology in West Virginia.
2. To carry out its regulatory duties, the Board has the authority to take disciplinary action against an individual's psychology license if the individual has engaged in unprofessional or unethical behavior in violation of application statutes, rules, or codes of conduct. See W. Va. Code § 30-21-6; See W. Va. Code § 30-21-10; See W. Va. Code R. § 17-6-1 *et seq.*, See W. Va. Code R. § 17-4-4.
3. In West Virginia, licensed psychologists are responsible for their own professional decisions and professional actions. See W. Va. Code R. §17-6-2.3.

4. In West Virginia, licensed psychologists are expected to follow and abide by the Board's Code of Conduct, which is set forth in W. Va. Code R. § 17-6-1 *et seq.*

5. According to the Board's Code of Conduct, a psychologist shall limit practice and supervision to the areas of competence in which proficiency has been gained through education, training, and experience. See W. Va. Code R. § 17-6-4.1.

6. A psychologist rendering a formal professional opinion about a person shall not do so without direct and substantial professional contact with or a formal assessment of that person. See W. Va. Code R. § 17-6-4.6.

7. Psychologists may provide opinions on the psychological characteristics of individuals only after they have conducted an examination of the individuals adequate to support their statements or conclusions. See W. Va. Code R. § 17-6-12.6.

8. Psychologists retain responsibility for the appropriate application, interpretation and use of assessment instruments, whether they score and interpret such tests themselves or use automated or other services. When using automated interpretation programs, psychologists shall analyze and interpret test data and the computer-generated interpretation report and apply pertinent findings to the specific client. If using the computer-generated interpretation report word for word, psychologists shall place such information in quotes and identify the source. See W. Va. Code R. § 17-6-13.1.

9. A violation of the Board's Code of Conduct constitutes unprofessional conduct and is sufficient reason for taking disciplinary action against a license. See W. Va. Code R. § 17-6-2.4.

10. Respondent, at all times relevant to this investigation, was a licensed psychologist in West Virginia, and she was subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Board and applicable statutes, regulations, and codes of conduct.

11. The Board asserts that Respondent conducted an ADHD evaluation involving an adult patient.

12. The Board asserts that Respondent's area of competency does not include conducting ADHD evaluations of adult patients.

13. The Board asserts that Respondent rendered a formal professional opinion without having sufficient direct and substantial professional contact with the patient or conducting a formal assessment of the patient. See W. Va. Code R. § 17-6-4.6.

14. The Board asserts that Respondent used a computer-generated interpretation report of the patient word for word and without placing such information in quotes and without identifying the source.

15. The allegations set out above in the Findings of Fact, if proved consistent with the applicable burden of proof, would likely demonstrate that Respondent did not comply with applicable law, codes of conduct, and/or regulation, which is grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to West Virginia Code § 30-21-10(b)(4).

Consent of Licensee

The Respondent, by affixing her signature hereto, acknowledges the following:

1. Respondent acknowledges the Board has jurisdiction over her and the conduct which has precipitated this Consent Agreement and Order.

2. Respondent has been given the opportunity to consult with legal counsel, and she executes this negotiated Consent Agreement and Order voluntarily, freely, without compulsion or duress, and she is mindful that it has legal consequences.

3. No person or entity has made any promise or given any inducement whatsoever to encourage Respondent to make this settlement other than as set forth herein.

4. Respondent acknowledges that she is aware she may pursue this matter through appropriate administrative and/or court proceedings, and she is aware of her legal rights regarding this matter, but intelligently, knowingly, and voluntarily waives such rights, but she does not waive her rights regarding interpretation, execution, or compliance with this Consent Agreement and Order.

5. Respondent expressly acknowledges that the entire agreement is contained in this Consent Agreement and Order and that no representations, promises, or inducements have been made by or to Respondent other than as appear in this Consent Agreement and Order.

6. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Order is a public document available for inspection by the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act (W. Va. Code § 29B-1 *et seq.*), and may be reported to other governmental agencies, practice data banks, professional boards or other organizations.

7. Respondent waives any defenses including, but not limited to, laches, statutes of limitation, and estoppel, that she may have otherwise claimed as a condition of this Consent Agreement and Order.

8. Respondent avers and maintains that, at all times at issue herein, and at all times in her practice as a licensee before the Board, she has acted in good faith and followed applicable laws, regulations, and accepted standards, and has behaved reasonably and within the accepted standards of the profession.

9. Respondent consents to the entry of the following Order affecting her conduct as a licensed psychologist in the State of West Virginia.

Order

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and based on the consent of the Respondent, the Board hereby orders the following:

1. Respondent has voluntarily surrender her license.
2. Respondent agrees not to seek reinstatement of license.
3. Respondent agrees not to engage in the unlicensed practice of psychology in West Virginia.
4. Respondent shall cooperate with the Board, and any of its agents or employees, in monitoring or investigation of Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Order.

5. Respondent's failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Order hereby imposed shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Agreement and Order, and should Respondent violate any of the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, the Board may proceed with an action to enjoin violations and/or make a criminal referral as contemplated in West Virginia Code §§ 30-21-14 and 30-21-13.

Entered this 2nd of March 2026.

W. Va. Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Sandra S. Stuebel PhD
President

Inspected and agreed to by:

Mary M Straight, MA 2-23-26
Mary Straight, MA **Date**
Respondent

Feresia Hamm 3-24-26
Legal Counsel or Witness **Date**
for the Respondent