

Dear APA,

I am a parent who has had a deeply troubling experience with a psychologist, and I am seeking advice on what options I may have for a course of action.

After reviewing the treatment that my child and family received, I am deeply concerned that the psychologist who assessed, diagnosed, and treated my child and our family did not have the necessary professional competence based on their education, training, supervised experience, consultation, study, or professional experience, and that their assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of my child and family therefore violated Standard 2.01a of the APA ethics code.

Through my research, I am further deeply concerned that because of this psychologist's limited knowledge and lack of professional competence in required areas of pathology, that this psychologist did not conduct an assessment based on information and techniques sufficient to substantiate their diagnostic findings and forensic testimony, in apparent violation of Standard 9.01a of the APA ethics code.

As a result of this psychologist's seeming professional ignorance and practice beyond the boundaries of professional competence, great and possibly irreparable damage was caused to my child and our family, seemingly creating another breach of Standard 3.04 of the APA ethics code.

Can you please advise me on what remedy I may have for my concerns regarding the professional practices of this psychologist? What recourse would you recommend for a parent who is concerned that the psychologist who assessed, diagnosed, and treated a child and family failed to possess the necessary professional competence in the pathology (in apparent violation of Standard 2.01a of the APA ethics code), and who therefore failed to conduct an adequate assessment based on information and techniques sufficient to substantiate the diagnostic and forensic statements of the psychologist (in apparent violation of Standard 9.01a of the APA ethics code), and who, as a result of practice beyond the boundaries of professional competence thereby caused substantial and possibly irreparable harm to the client child and family (in apparent violation of Standard 3.04 of the APA ethics code)?

What would be the proper path for addressing my concerns?

Many thanks,

Mary Doe

Dear APA,

I am seeking the help and direction of the APA regarding my appropriate recourse and course of action in addressing what appears to be exceedingly problematic professional practice surrounding the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of my child and family from a psychologist.

I initially sought treatment for my child who was experiencing a significant attachment-related pathology that was creating tremendous emotional and psychological distress in our family. We were in unsuccessful treatment for several years, during which time the attachment-related pathology only became increasingly worse.

In my subsequent research on attachment pathology, I have become deeply concerned that the psychologist who was involved in assessing, diagnosing and treating my child and our family did not possess the necessary professional competence regarding attachment pathology based on the education, training, supervised experience, consultation, study, or professional experience of this psychologist, and that their assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of my child and family therefore violated Standard 2.01a of the APA ethics code.

I am also deeply concerned that because of this professional's practice beyond the boundaries of professional practice (in apparent violation of Standard 2.01a of the APA ethics code), that this psychologist did not conduct an adequate assessment of my child and family that would allow the psychologist to base his diagnostic statements and forensic testimony on information and techniques sufficient to substantiate his findings, in apparent violation of Standard 9.01a of the APA ethics code.

As a result of failed therapy as an apparent consequence of this psychologist practicing beyond the boundaries of professional competence (in apparent violation of Standard 2.01a of the APA ethics code) and therefore having failed to conduct an adequate assessment of the pathology evidenced by my child and family (in apparent violation of Standard 9.01a of the APA ethics code), significant harm was done to my child and family (in apparent violation of Standard 3.04 of the APA ethics code).

Given my deep concerns regarding the professional practice of the involved psychologist, what would you recommend as to how I might address these concerns and the deep harm that was done to my child and family as the result of this psychologist apparently practicing beyond the boundaries of this psychologist's professional competence as obtained through the psychologist's education, training, supervised experience, consultation, study, or professional experience? What recourse do I have for remedy?

Many thanks

Mary Doe