Chapter 246-924 WAC

PSYCHOLOGISTS

WAC

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DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER


246-924-050 Practicum.
246-924-060 Doctoral degree program.
246-924-065 Doctoral degree program.
246-924-200 Doctoral degree program.

(10/4/11) [Ch. 246-924 WAC—p. 1]
WAC 246-924-001 Guidelines for the promulgation of administrative rules. The examining board of psychology shall not promulgate rules which restrict access to information from applicant/employee psychological evaluations sought by public safety agencies.

WAC 246-924-010 Definitions. (1) "Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome" or "AIDS" means the clinical syndrome of HIV-related illness as defined by the board of health by rule.

(2) "Office on AIDS" means that section within the department of social and health services or any successor department with jurisdiction over public health matters as defined in chapter 70.24 RCW.

WAC 246-924-030 Guidelines for the employment and/or supervision of auxiliary staff. (1) Qualifications of the supervisor: The supervisor shall be licensed in Washington state for the practice of psychology and have adequate training, knowledge, and skill to evaluate the competence of the work of the auxiliary staff. The supervisor may not be employed by the auxiliary staff.

(2) Qualifications of the auxiliary staff: The staff person must have the background, training, and experience that is appropriate to the functions performed. The supervisor is responsible for determining the adequacy of the qualifications of the staff person and the designation of his/her title.

(3) Responsibilities of the supervisor: The supervisor accepts full legal and professional responsibility for all services that may be rendered by the auxiliary staff. To this end, the supervisor shall have sufficient knowledge of all clients, including face-to-face contact when necessary, in order to plan and assure the delivery of effective services. The supervisor is responsible for assuring that appropriate supervision is available or present at all times. The supervisor is responsible for assuring that auxiliary staff are informed of and adhere to requirements of confidentiality. The supervisor shall assure that the staff person providing services is appropriately covered by professional liability insurance and adheres to accepted business practices.

(4) Conduct of supervision: It is recognized that variability in preparation for duties to be assumed will require individually tailored supervision. In the case of auxiliary staff providing psychological services, a detailed job description shall be developed and a contract for supervision prepared.

(5) Conduct of services that may be provided by auxiliary staff: Procedures to be carried out by the auxiliary staff shall be planned in consultation with the supervisor. Clients of the auxiliary staff shall be informed as to his/her status and shall be given specific information as to his/her qualifications and functions. Clients shall be informed of the identity of the supervisor. They shall be informed that they might meet with the supervisor at their own request, the auxiliary staff person's or the supervisor's request. Written reports and communications shall be countersigned by the supervisor.

WAC 246-924-043 Education and experience requirements for licensure. (1) To obtain a license, applicants must complete:

(a) A doctoral degree program as described in WAC 246-924-046;

(b) A practicum of at least 300 hours as described in WAC 246-924-049; and

(c) An experience requirement consisting of no fewer than two years supervised experience totaling 3000 hours that includes:

(i) A minimum of 1500 hours of supervised experience that must be completed as an internship experience as outlined in WAC 246-924-056.

(ii) The remaining 1500 supervised hours may be obtained through:

(A) A preinternship as described in WAC 246-924-053;

(B) A postdoctoral experience as described in WAC 246-924-059; or

(C) A combination of preinternship and postdoctoral experience.

(2) The order of supervised experience must be graduated from more intensive to less intensive supervision.

WAC 246-924-046 Doctoral degree program. To meet the education requirements of RCW 18.83.070, an applicant must possess a doctoral degree from a regionally accredited institution. Regional accreditation is awarded to an institution by one of the regional accrediting agencies, each of which covers a specified portion of the United States and its territories, or equivalent accreditation in another country, upon approval by the board.

(1) The doctoral degree program must include:

(a) At least forty semester hours, or sixty quarter hours, of graduate courses in curriculum areas described in subsection (2) of this section. Courses must be clearly identified by...
(b) One year in residency as described in subsection (4) of this section;
(c) Submission of an original dissertation which is psychological in nature and endorsed by the program; and
(d) An organized, sequential and coordinated practicum and internship experience as described in WAC 246-924-049 and 246-924-056.

(2) The curriculum requirements: The doctoral degree program must encompass a minimum of three academic years of full-time graduate study or the equivalent. The applicant must complete courses in:
(a) History and systems;
(b) Research design and methodology; and
(c) Statistics and psychometrics.

(3) The applicant must complete three or more semester hours, or five or more quarter hours, of core study in each of the following content areas:
(a) Biological bases of behavior for example: Physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neural bases of behavior, sensation and perception, and biological bases of development;
(b) Cognitive-affective bases of behavior for example: Learning, thinking, motivation, emotion, and cognitive development;
(c) Social bases of behavior for example: Social psychology, organizational theory, community psychology, and social development;
(d) Individual differences for example: Personality theory and psychopathology;
(e) Scientific and professional ethics;
(f) History and systems of psychology;
(g) Statistics and psychometrics;
(h) Research design and methodology;
(i) Techniques of data analysis;
(j) Human development (developmental psychology, child development, adult development and aging);
(k) Cultural and individual differences and diversity;
(l) Psychopathology and dysfunctional behaviors;
(m) Theories and methods of assessment and diagnosis—minimum of two courses;
(n) Effective psychological intervention and evaluation of the efficacy of interventions—minimum of three courses; and
(o) Psychopharmacology.

Doctoral degree programs accredited by the American Psychological Association or the Canadian Psychological Association are recognized as having met the minimum education requirements.

(4) Residency requirement:
(a) The doctoral degree program must involve at least one continuous year of full-time residency at the institution which grants the degree or a minimum of 750 hours of student-faculty contact involving face-to-face individual or group educational meetings.
(b) Educational meetings:
(i) Must include both faculty-student and student-student interaction;
(ii) Be conducted by the psychology faculty of the institution at least seventy-five percent of the time;

(WAC 246-924-049 Practicum. Applied experience: The doctoral degree program required in WAC 246-924-046 must include a practicum of at least two semesters or three quarters and at least 300 hours of direct experience, 100 hours of which must be in supervision. Supervision must include the following:
(1) Discussion of services provided by the student;
(2) Selection of service plan for and review of each case or work unit of the student;
(3) Discussion of and instruction in theoretical concepts underlying the work;
(4) Discussion of the management of professional practice and other administrative or business issues;
(5) Evaluation of the supervisory process by the student and the supervisor;
(6) Discussion of coordination of services among the professionals involved in the particular cases or work units;
(7) Discussion of relevant state laws and rules;
(8) Discussion of ethical principles including principles applicable to the work;
(9) Review of standards for providers of psychological services; and
(10) Discussion of reading materials relevant to cases, ethical issues and the supervisory process.

(WAC 246-924-053 Preinternship. A preinternship experience occurs between the practicum required by WAC 246-924-049 and internship required by WAC 246-924-056. A preinternship can include up to 1500 hours of supervised experience, but is not required. If preinternship experience is used to satisfy the experience requirement of WAC 246-924-043 (1)(c), it must meet the following requirements:
(1) Before beginning the program, the student, the doctoral program, and the preinternship program must agree on and document the goals, the student's expectations, and the methods of the preinternship experience. The goals must meet the requirements of this section.
(2) Every 20 hours of preinternship experience must include the following:
(a) At least 2 hours of regularly scheduled, formal, face-to-face individual supervision that addresses the direct psychological services provided by the student; and
(b) At least 2 hours of other learning activities such as case conferences, seminars on applied issues, conducting cotherapy with a staff person including discussion of the case, and group supervision.
(3) At least sixty percent of the preinternship experience must be direct client contact providing assessment and intervention services.
(4) The preinternship experience must be supervised by the person(s) responsible for the assigned casework.

[Ch. 246-924 WAC—p. 4]
(a) At least seventy-five percent of the supervision must be by a licensed psychologist with two years post-license experience.

(b) Up to twenty-five percent of the supervision may be completed by the following:

(i) A psychiatrist(s) with three years experience beyond residency.
(ii) A licensed mental health counselor(s) with five years post-license experience.
(iii) A licensed marriage and family therapist(s) with at least five years post-license experience.
(iv) A licensed advanced social worker(s) or licensed independent clinical social worker(s) with five years post-license experience; or
(v) A doctoral level psychologist(s) with three years post-doctoral experience who is exempt from licensure under RCW 18.83.200 (1), (2), (3) or (4), if the supervision occurs in the exempt setting.

(c) Supervision of the preinternship experience must include the following:

(i) Discussion of services provided by the student;
(ii) Selection of service plan for and review of each case or work unit of the student;
(iii) Discussion of and instruction in theoretical concepts underlying the work;
(iv) Discussion of the management of professional practice and other administrative or business issues;
(v) Evaluation of the supervisory process by the student and the supervisor;
(vi) Discussion of coordination of services among the professionals involved in the particular cases or work units;
(vii) Discussion of relevant state laws and rules;
(viii) Discussion of ethical principles including principles applicable to the work;
(ix) Review of standards for providers of psychological services; and
(x) Discussion of reading materials relevant to cases, ethical issues and the supervisory process.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.50 [18.83.050]. 07-24-093, § 246-924-053, filed 12/5/07, effective 9/1/09.]

**WAC 246-924-056 Internship.** Applicants must successfully complete an organized internship as part of the doctoral degree program described in WAC 246-924-046.

(1) The internship must include at least 1500 hours of supervised experience and be completed within twenty-four months.

(2) The internship program must:

(a) Be accredited by the American Psychological Association; or
(b) Be a member program of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers; or
(c) Meet the following requirements:

(i) Organization of the internship program.

(A) The internship must have a written statement or brochure describing the goals and content of the internship, stating clear expectations and quality of student work, and made available to prospective interns.

(B) A psychologist licensed by the appropriate state or provincial licensing authority must be clearly designated as responsible for the integrity and quality of the internship program.

(C) Interns must use titles indicating their training status.

(ii) Content of the internship program.

(A) The internship must be designed to provide a planned sequence of training experiences focusing on breadth and quality of training. Supervision and training related to ethics must be ongoing.

(B) At least twenty-five percent of the internship experience must be in direct client contact providing assessment and intervention services.

(C) For every 40 hours of internship experience, the student must receive:

(I) At least 2 hours of regularly scheduled, formal, face-to-face individual supervision that addresses the direct psychological services provided by the intern; and

(II) At least 2 hours of other learning activities such as case conferences, seminars on applied issues, conducting cotherapy with a staff person including discussion of the case, and group supervision.

(ii) Supervision of the internship experience.

(A) The internship setting must have two or more psychologists available as supervisors, at least one of whom is licensed as a psychologist.

(B) The internship experience must be supervised by the person(s) responsible for the assigned casework.

(I) At least seventy-five percent of the supervision must be by a licensed psychologist with two years post-license experience.

(II) Up to twenty-five percent of the supervision may be completed by the following:

• A psychiatrist(s) with three years experience beyond residency;
• A licensed mental health counselor(s) with five years post-license experience;
• A licensed marriage and family therapist(s) with at least five years post-license experience;
• A licensed advanced social worker(s) or licensed independent clinical social worker(s) with five years post-license experience; or
• A doctoral level psychologist(s) with three years post-doctoral experience who is exempt from licensure under RCW 18.83.200 (1), (2), (3) or (4), if the supervision occurs in the exempt setting.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.50 [18.83.050]. 07-24-093, § 246-924-056, filed 12/5/07, effective 9/1/09.]

**WAC 246-924-059 Post-doctoral supervised experience.** If 3000 hours of supervised experience has not been completed at the end of the doctoral degree program, then up to 1500 hours of supervised post-doctoral experience can be used to satisfy the total requirement. Post-doctoral supervised experience must be completed only if an applicant does not already have 3000 hours of supervised experience.

(1) Organization of the post-doctoral supervised experience.

(a) The supervisor is ethically and legally responsible for all supervisee work covered by the supervision agreement. Therefore, the supervisor has authority to alter service plans and direct the course of psychological work.
(b) Supervisees must use titles indicating their training status, such as "psychological resident," "psychological intern," or "psychological supervisee."

(c) Clients must be informed of the identity and responsibilities of the supervisor and how they can speak directly to the supervisor.

(d) Services rendered by the supervisee must not be represented to third parties as having been rendered by the supervisor. Insurance forms must be filled out indicating the nature of the supervisory relationship.

(1) The supervisor and supervisee must have written(
ad agreement for supervision, including:
(a) The area(s) of professional activity in which supervision will occur;
(b) Hours of supervision and/or ratio of supervision to professional activity;
(c) Fees for supervision, if any;
(d) Processes for supervision including mode(s) of supervision, expectations for recordkeeping, evaluation, and feedback;
(e) Relevant business arrangements;
(f) How the supervisee will represent himself or herself; and

(g) How disagreements will be handled.

(3) Mode of supervision.
(a) The preferred mode of supervision is face-to-face discussion between the supervisor and the supervisee.
(b) The nature of the supervision may depend on the following:
(i) The theoretical orientation of the supervisor;
(ii) The training and experience of the supervisee; and
(iii) The duration of the supervisory relationship.

(4) Some direct observation of the supervisee's work is required and the supervisor may use the following:
(a) Detailed process notes and progress reports;
(b) Audio and/or videotapes;
(c) Client supplied information such as behavioral ratings; and
(d) One-way mirror observation.

(5) Supervised experience must be appropriate to the area(s) of professional activity the person intends to practice.

(6) There must be at least one hour of individual supervision for every twenty hours of psychological work.

(7) The supervisor and the supervisee must keep records of experience and supervision hours.

(8) At the end of the supervision period, the supervisor must prepare and forward to the board a written evaluation, including the number of successfully completed supervised hours of psychological work and any hours not successfully completed.

If any hours were not successfully completed, the board may require additional hours of supervision.

(9) Supervision of the post-doctoral supervised experience.

(a) At least fifty percent of the post-doctoral supervision must be provided by a licensed psychologist.

(b) Up to fifty percent of the supervision may be provided by the following:
(i) A licensed psychologist with two years post-license experience;

(ii) A psychiatrist with three years of experience beyond residency;

(iii) A licensed mental health counselor, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a licensed advanced social worker, or a licensed independent clinical social worker, if the supervisor has five years post-license experience;

(iv) A doctoral level psychologist with three years post-doctoral experience who is exempt from licensure under RCW 18.83.200 (1), (2), (3) or (4), if the supervision occurs in the exempt setting.

(10) Supervision must include the following:
(a) Discussion of services provided by the student;
(b) Selection, service plan, and review of each case or work unit of the student;
(c) Discussion of and instruction in theoretical concepts underlying the work;
(d) Discussion of the management of professional practice and other administrative or business issues;
(e) Evaluation of the supervisory process by the student and the supervisor;
(f) Discussion of coordination of services among the professionals involved in the particular cases or work units;
(g) Discussion of relevant Washington laws and rules;
(h) Discussion of ethical principles including principles applicable to the work;
(i) Review of standards for providers of psychological services; and

(j) Discussion of reading materials relevant to cases, ethical issues and the supervisory process.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.50 [18.83.050]. 07-24-093, § 246-924-059, filed 12/5/07, effective 9/1/09.]

WAC 246-924-070 Psychologists—Written examination. The written examination requirement consists of two separate examinations.

(1) The written examination Washington state uses is the National Examination of Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP).

(a) The Association of State and Provincial Psychology is responsible for the development and administration of the national exam.

(b) To be considered for licensure applicants must receive a score of at least 70% or the national mean, whichever is lowest.

(2) The jurisprudence examination covers professional judgment, knowledge of state laws, and ethics pertaining to the practice of psychology.

(a) The department of health administers the jurisprudence examination on behalf of the examining board of psychology.

(b) To be considered for licensure applicants must receive a score of at least 90%.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050. 08-09-100, § 246-924-070, filed 4/21/08, effective 5/22/08; 93-07-078 (Order 349B), § 246-924-070, filed 3/18/93, effective 4/18/93; 91-04-020 (Order 117B), recodified as § 246-924-070, filed 1/28/91, effective 2/28/91; 82-18-073 (Order PL 404), § 308-122-220, filed 9/1/82; 80-07-010 (Order PL 346), § 308-122-220, filed 6/9/80; 79-08-009 (Order PL 309), § 308-122-220, filed 7/9/79; Order PL 245, § 308-122-220, filed 4/15/76.]
WAC 246-924-095 Failure of written examinations. An applicant who fails either examination required under WAC 246-924-070 may sit for reexamination as follows: (1) First reexamination: At any following examination administration date; (2) Second or subsequent reexamination: A minimum of two months after the failure of the previous examination.

WAC 246-924-100 Qualifications for granting of license by endorsement. Candidates applying for licensure under RCW 18.83.170 (1) and (2) shall: (1) Provide evidence of meeting the educational requirements set forth in RCW 18.83.070 in effect when the applicant completed his or her doctoral program; and (2) Pass the jurisprudence examination administered by the department on behalf of the board, as described in WAC 246-924-070.

WAC 246-924-110 AIDS education and training. Applicants must complete seven clock hours of AIDS education as required in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 8.

WAC 246-924-115 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Denials based on failure to meet education, experience, or examination prerequisites for licensure. The board adopts RCW 34.05.482 and 34.05.485 through 34.05.494 for adjudicative proceedings requested by applicants, who are denied a license under chapter 18.83 RCW for failure to meet the education, experience, or examination prerequisites for licensure. The sole issue at the adjudicative proceeding shall be whether the applicant meets the education, experience, and examination prerequisites for the issuance of a license.

WAC 246-924-130 Certificates of qualification. Certificates of qualification shall not be granted. Those holding certificates of qualification as of July 1, 1990, shall continue to be in conformance with WAC 246-924-140, 246-924-150, and 246-924-160.

WAC 246-924-140 Certificates of qualification—Title. Applicants receiving the certificates of qualification shall hold the title of "psychological assistant," unless the board approves the applicant's petition to work without immediate supervision in which case the applicant shall hold the title of "psychological affiliate."
psychological services the psychological assistant may provide. Failure to provide supervision as described in the agreement may result in appropriate action against the license of the supervisor.

(5) Interruption or termination of a supervisory relationship shall be promptly communicated to the board by the supervisor or the psychological assistant.

(6) In every case where psychological testing is done and a report is written based on that testing by a psychological assistant, the supervising licensed psychologist will countersign the report indicating his or her approval.

(7) An applicant or holder of a certificate may apply to the board for authority to work without immediate supervision in particular areas of function. In these cases, the board may require further evidence of proficiency. Even though the immediate supervision requirement is waived for the psychological assistant, periodic supervisory consultation as deemed appropriate by the board is required. Evidence of supervisory consultation must be submitted to the department of health with the annual license renewal fee.

(8) The board will conduct appropriate review and make its decision under this section for any application submitted under WAC 246-924-150 for certification of an additional area of function.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050, 09-14-075, § 246-924-210, filed 7/6/99, effective 8/6/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050, 91-04-021 (Order 129B), § 246-924-180, filed 1/28/91, effective 2/28/91.]

WAC 246-924-230 Continuing education requirements. (1) The Washington state board of psychology (hereafter referred to as the board) requires a minimum of sixty hours of continuing education (hereafter referred to as CE) every three years.

(2) A minimum of four hours credit in ethics must be included in the sixty hours required. Areas to be covered, depending on the licensee's primary area(s) of function are practice, consultation, research, teaching, and/or supervision.

(3) Faculty providing CE offerings shall meet the training and the full qualifications of their respective professions. All faculty shall demonstrate expertise in the areas in which they are instructing.

(4) The board reserves the right to require any licensee to submit evidence, e.g., course or program certificate of training, transcript, course or workshop brochure description, evidence of attendance, etc., in addition to the affidavit form in order to demonstrate compliance with the sixty hours CE requirement.


WAC 246-924-240 Definitions of categories of creditable CE. All CE activities shall be directly relevant to maintaining or increasing professional or scientific competence in psychology. Courses or workshops primarily designed to increase practice income or office efficiency, while valuable to the licensee, are specifically noneligible for CE credit. Program sponsors or institutes should not apply for, nor expect to receive, prior or current board approval for CE status or category. Recognized activities shall include:

(1) Courses, seminars, workshops and post-doctoral institutes offered by educational institutions chartered by a state and recognized (accredited) by a regional association of schools, colleges and universities as providing graduate level course offerings. Such educational activities shall be recorded on an official transcript or certificate of completion.

(2) Courses (including correspondence courses), seminars, workshops and post-doctoral institutes sponsored by the American Psychological Association, regional or state psychological associations or their subchapters, psychology internship training centers, other professionally or scientifically recognized behavioral science organizations, and the board.

(3) Credit toward the CE requirement may be earned through teaching an approved CE program. Credit earned through teaching shall not exceed thirty hours every three years. Credit for teaching an approved CE program may be earned on the following basis:

(a) One credit hour for each sixty minutes actually spent teaching the program for the first event. Credit may be conferred for teaching similar subject matter only if the psychol-
ogist has actually spent an equal or greater amount of preparation time updating the subject matter to be taught on a later occasion.

(b) One credit hour for each sixty minutes actually spent participating in a panel presentation.


WAC 246-924-250 Continuing education—Special considerations. In lieu (total or partial) of sixty hours of CE, the board may consider credit hour approval and acceptance of other programs as they are developed and implemented, such as:

1. Compliance with a CE program developed by the American Psychological Association which provides either a recognition award or certificate, may be evaluated and considered for partial or total fulfillment of the CE credit hour requirements of the board.

2. Psychologists licensed in the state of Washington but practicing in a different state or country which has a mandatory or voluntary CE program may submit to the board evidence of completion of that other state's or country's CE requirements for evaluation and partial or total credit hour approval.

3. Psychologists licensed in the state of Washington but practicing in a state, U.S. territory or foreign country without CE requirements, or who are not legally required to meet those CE requirements, may submit evidence of their CE activities pursued outside of Washington state directly to the board for evaluation and approval based on conformity to the board's CE requirements.

4. The board may also accept evidence of diplomate award by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) and American Board of Psychological Hypnosis (ABPH) in lieu of sixty hours of CE for that three year period in which the diplomate was awarded.

5. Credit hours may be earned for other specialty board or diploma certifications if and when such are established.

6. In accordance with WAC 246-12-040 (2)(c)(ix), psychologists who have allowed their credential to expire for three years or more must document completion of forty hours of CE, of which four hours must be in ethics. This CE must have been obtained within the two most recent years immediately prior to reinstatement.


WAC 246-924-300 Definition of acceptable documentation and proof of CE. Licensees are responsible for acquiring and maintaining all acceptable documentation of their CE activities.

Acceptable documentation shall include transcripts, letters from course instructors, or certificate of completion or other formal certification. In all cases other than transcripts, the documentation must show the participant's name, the activity title, number of CE credit hours, date(s) of activity, faculty's name(s) and degree and the signature of verifying individual (program sponsor).


WAC 246-924-330 Continuing education—Exemptions. In the event a licensee fails to meet requirements, because of illness, retirement (with no further provision of psychological services to consumers), failure to renew, or other extenuating circumstances, each case will be considered by the board on an individual basis. When circumstances justify it, the board may grant a time extension. The board may, in its discretion, limit in part or in whole the provision of psychological services to the consumers until the CE requirements are met. In the case of retirement or illness, the board may grant indefinite waiver of CE as a requirement for relicensure, provided an affidavit is received indicating the psychologist is not providing psychological services to consumers. If such illness or retirement status is changed or consumer psychological services are resumed, it is incumbent upon the licensee to immediately notify the board and to resume meeting CE requirements for relicensure. CE credit hours will be prorated for the portion of that three year period involving resumption of such services.


WAC 246-924-351 Rules of ethical conduct. (1) Scope. The psychologist shall be governed by these rules of conduct whenever practicing as a psychologist.

(2) Responsibility for own actions. The psychologist shall be fully responsible for his/her own professional decisions and professional actions.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050(5) and chapter 18.83 RCW. 93-07-036 (Order 337B), § 246-924-351, filed 3/10/93, effective 4/10/93.]

WAC 246-924-352 Definitions. (1) "Client" means a recipient of psychological services or that person's legal guardian. A corporate entity or other organization can be a client when the professional contract is to provide services of primary benefit to the organization rather than to individuals.

(2) "Confidential client information" means information revealed by the client or otherwise obtained by a psychologist, where there is reasonable expectation, because of the relationship between the client and the psychologist, or the circumstances under which the information was revealed or obtained, that the information was private.

(3) "Supervisee" means any person who functions under the extended authority of the psychologist to provide psychological services or any person who is in training and provides psychological services.

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WAC 246-924-353 Competence. (1) Limits on practice. The psychologist shall limit practice to the areas in which he/she is competent. Competency at a minimum must be based upon appropriate education, training, or experience.

(2) Referral. The psychologist shall refer to other health care resources, legal authorities, or social service agencies when such referral is in the best interest of the client.

WAC 246-924-354 Maintenance and retention of records. (1) A psychologist who renders professional services to a client or clients, or renders services billed to a third party payor, shall document services except as provided in (g) of this subsection. The documentation must include:

(a) The presenting problem(s), purpose, or diagnosis;
(b) The fee arrangement;
(c) The date and service provided;
(d) A copy of all tests and evaluative reports prepared;
(e) Notation and results of formal consults including information obtained from other persons or agencies through a release of information;
(f) Progress notes reflecting ongoing treatment and current status; and
(g) If a client requests that no treatment records be kept and the psychologist agrees to the request, the client’s request must be in writing and retained with the following information:

(i) Identity of the recipient of the services;
(ii) Service dates and fees;
(iii) Description of services;
(iv) The psychologist shall not agree to the request if maintaining records is required by other state or federal law.

(2) All records must be retained for at least eight years following the last professional contact with the client(s). In the case of minors under the age of eighteen, the records must be retained until the client reaches the age of twenty-two or for eight years, whichever is longer.

All records must be securely maintained with appropriate limited access in accordance with any other applicable state or federal laws.

(3) The psychologist rendering services must have a written policy to ensure the maintenance and confidentiality of the client records in the event of retirement, discontinuation of practice or employment, discontinuation of practice in the state of Washington, or inability to maintain practice or employment (e.g., illness or death of the psychologist).

This written policy must be made available to the board, upon written request, within sixty days. The written policy shall:

(a) Designate a qualified person(s) or, if appropriate, hospital, clinic or other health care facility, to make necessary clinically relevant referrals if the psychologist is unable to do so;
(b) Detail a plan for fulfilling record requests described under this subsection; and
(c) Require the subsequent record holder to maintain records in accordance with any other applicable state or federal laws or rules.

(4) In the case of psychological or neuropsychological evaluations, tests or assessments, the psychologist may exercise clinical judgment in determining whether or not to retain specific records beyond the minimum retention period specified in subsection (2) of this section.

(5) After the minimum records retention period is met for a client record, the psychologist may elect to dispose of the record. If the record is disposed of, it shall be done in a secure and confidential manner. Proper disposal means paper is shredded; electronic media is deleted, erased, or reformatted; and other readable forms of media is defaced or rendered unusable or unreadable.

WAC 246-924-355 Continuity of care. The psychologist shall make arrangements to deal with emergency needs of her/his clients during periods of anticipated absences from the psychologist’s routine professional availability.

WAC 246-924-356 Impaired objectivity. The psychologist shall not undertake or continue a professional relationship with a client when the competency of the psychologist is impaired due to mental, emotional, physical, pharmacological, or substance abuse conditions. If such a condition develops after a professional relationship has been initiated, the psychologist shall terminate the relationship in an appropriate manner, and shall assist the client in obtaining services from another professional.

WAC 246-924-357 Multiple relationships. The psychologist shall not undertake or continue a professional relationship with a client when the objectivity or competency of the psychologist is impaired because of the psychologist’s present or previous familial, social, sexual, emotional, financial, supervisory, political, administrative, or legal relationship with the client or a person associated with or related to the client. When such relationship impairs objectivity, the psychologist shall terminate the professional relationship with adequate notice and in an appropriate manner; and shall assist the client in obtaining services from another professional.

WAC 246-924-358 Sexual misconduct. (1) The following definitions apply to this section:

(a) "Health care information" means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of, and relates to the health care of, a patient or client.
(b) "Key party" means immediate family members and others who would be reasonably expected to play a significant role in the health care decisions of the patient or client and includes, but is not limited to, the spouse, domestic partner, sibling, parent, child, guardian and person authorized to make health care decisions of the patient or client.

(c) "Legitimate health care purpose" means activities for examination, diagnosis, treatment, and personal care of patients or clients, including palliative care, as consistent with community standards of practice for the profession. The activity must be within the scope of practice of psychology.

(d) "Patient" or "client" means an individual who receives psychological services from a psychologist.

(2) A psychologist shall never engage, or attempt to engage, in sexual misconduct with a current patient, client, or key party, inside or outside the health care setting. Sexual misconduct shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action. Sexual misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Sexual intercourse;

(b) Touching the breasts, genitals, anus or any sexualized body part;

(c) Rubbing against a patient or client or key party for sexual gratification;

(d) Kissing;

(e) Hugging, touching, fondling or caressing of a romantic or sexual nature;

(f) Dressing or undressing in the presence of the patient, client or key party;

(g) Removing patient or client's clothing or gown or draping without emergent medical necessity;

(h) Encouraging masturbation or other sex act in the presence of the psychologist;

(i) Masturbation or other sex act by the psychologist in the presence of the patient, client or key party;

(j) Suggesting or discussing the possibility of a dating, sexual or romantic relationship after the professional relationship ends;

(k) Terminating a professional relationship for the purpose of dating or pursuing a romantic or sexual relationship;

(l) Soliciting a date with a patient, client or key party;

(m) Discussing the sexual history, preferences or fantasies of the psychologist;

(n) Any behavior, gestures, or expressions that may reasonably be interpreted as seductive or sexual;

(o) Making statements regarding the patient, client or key party's body, appearance, sexual history, or sexual orientation other than for psychological service purposes;

(p) Sexually demeaning behavior including any verbal or physical contact which may reasonably be interpreted as demeaning, humiliating, embarrassing, threatening or harming a patient, client or key party;

(q) Photographing or filming the body or any body part or pose of a patient, client, or key party, other than for psychological service purposes; and

(r) Showing a patient, client or key party sexually explicit photographs, other than for psychological service purposes.

(3) A psychologist shall not:

(a) Offer to provide psychological services in exchange for sexual favors;

(b) Use health care information to contact the patient, client or key party for the purpose of engaging in sexual misconduct;

(c) Use health care information or access to health care information to meet or attempt to meet the psychologist's sexual needs.

(4) After the termination of the psychology services, the psychologist shall not engage, or attempt to engage, in the activities listed in subsection (2) of this section with a patient or client for five years or with a key party for two years.

(5) A psychologist shall never engage, or attempt to engage, in sexual misconduct with a former client, patient or key party even after the period of time described in subsection (4) of this section if:

(a) There is a significant likelihood that the patient, client or key party will seek or require additional services from the psychologist; or

(b) There is an imbalance of power, influence, opportunity, and/or special knowledge of the professional relationship.

(6) When evaluating whether a psychologist is prohibited from engaging, or attempting to engage, in sexual misconduct, the board will consider factors, including but not limited to:

(a) Documentation of a formal termination and the circumstances of termination of the psychological services;

(b) Transfer of care to another health care provider;

(c) Duration of the psychological services;

(d) Amount of time that has passed since the last psychological services were provided to the patient or client;

(e) Communication between the psychologist and the patient or client between the last psychological services rendered and commencement of the personal relationship;

(f) Extent to which the patient's or client's personal or private information was shared with the psychologist;

(g) Nature of the patient's or client's mental health condition during and since the professional relationship; and

(h) The patient's or client's emotional dependence and vulnerability.

(7) Initiation or consent by patient, client or key party does not excuse or negate the psychologist's responsibility.

(8) These rules do not prohibit providing psychological services in case of emergency where the services cannot or will not be provided by another psychologist.

(9) Psychologists must not accept as therapy patients or clients persons with whom they have engaged in sexual contact or activity.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050 and 18.130.050. 07-23-126, § 246-924-358, filed 11/21/07, effective 12/22/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050(5) and chapter 18.83 RCW, 93-07-036 (Order 337B), § 246-924-358, filed 3/10/93, effective 4/10/93.]

WAC 246-924-359 Client welfare. (1) Providing explanation of procedures. The psychologist shall upon request give a truthful, understandable, and reasonably complete account of the client's condition to the client or to those responsible for the care of the client. The psychologist shall keep the client fully informed as to the purpose and nature of any evaluation, treatment, or other procedures, and of the client's right to freedom of choice regarding services provided.
subject to the exceptions contained in the Uniform Health Care Information Act, chapter 70.02 RCW.

(2) Termination of services. Whenever professional services are terminated, the psychologist shall offer to help locate alternative sources of professional services or assistance if necessary. Psychologists shall terminate a professional relationship when it would become clear to a reasonable, prudent psychologist that the client no longer needs the service, is not benefiting, or is being harmed by continued service.

(3) Stereotyping. In their work-related activities, psychologists do not engage in unfair discrimination based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status, or any basis proscribed by law.

(4) Solicitation of business by clients. The psychologist shall not request or induce any client, who is not an organization, to solicit business on behalf of the psychologist.

(5) Referrals on request. When making referrals the psychologist shall do so in the best interest of the client. The referral shall not be motivated primarily by financial gain.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050(5) and chapter 18.83 RCW. 93-07-036 (Order 337B), § 246-924-359, filed 3/10/93, effective 4/10/93.]

WAC 246-924-361 Exploiting supervisees and research subjects. (1) Psychologists shall not exploit persons over whom they have supervisory, evaluative, or other authority such as students, supervisees, employees, research participants, clients, or patients.

(2) Psychologist shall not engage in sexual relationships with students or supervisees in training over whom the psychologist has evaluative or direct authority.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050(5) and chapter 18.83 RCW. 93-07-036 (Order 337B), § 246-924-361, filed 3/10/93, effective 4/10/93.]

WAC 246-924-363 Protecting confidentiality of clients. (1) In general. The psychologist shall safeguard the confidential information obtained in the course of practice, teaching, research, or other professional duties. With the exceptions set forth below, the psychologist shall disclose confidential information to others only with the informed written consent of the client.

When a corporation or other organization is the client, rules of confidentiality apply to information pertaining to the organization, including personal information about individuals when obtained in the proper course of that contract. Such information about individuals is subject to confidential control of the organization, not of the individual, and can be made available to the organization, unless the information was obtained in a separate professional relationship with that individual.

(2) Disclosure without informed written consent. The psychologist may disclose confidential information without the informed written consent of the client only in compliance with the Uniform Health Care Information Act, chapter 70.02 RCW.

(3) Services involving more than one interested party. In a situation in which more than one party has a legally recognized interest in the professional services rendered by the psychologist to a recipient, the psychologist shall, to the extent possible, clarify to all parties, in writing, prior to rendering the services the dimensions of confidentiality and professional responsibility that shall pertain in the rendering of services. Such clarification is specifically indicated, among other circumstances, when the client is an organization.

(4) Legally dependent clients. At the beginning of a professional relationship, to the extent that the client can understand, the psychologist shall inform a client who is under the age of thirteen or who has a legal guardian of the limit the law imposes on the right of confidentiality with respect to his/her communications with the psychologist. For clients between the age of thirteen and eighteen, the psychologist shall clarify any limits to confidentiality between the minor and legal guardians at the outset of services. The psychologist will act in the minor's best interests in deciding whether to disclose confidential information to the legal guardians without the minor's consent.

(5) Limited access to client records. The psychologist shall limit access to client records and shall ensure that all persons working under his/her authority are familiar with the requirements for confidentiality of client material.

(6) When rendering psychological services as part of a team which includes nonhealth care professionals, if the psychologist shares confidential information about the client when so authorized by the client, the psychologist shall advise all persons receiving the information from the psychologist that the information should be maintained in a confidential manner.

(7) Reporting of abuse of children and vulnerable adults. The psychologist shall comply with chapter 26.44 RCW.

(8) Observation and electronic recording. The psychologist shall obtain documented informed consent of the client, guardian or agent for observed or electronically recorded sessions.

(9) Disguising confidential information. When case reports or other confidential information are used as the basis of teaching, research, or other published reports, the psychologist shall exercise reasonable care to ensure that the reported material is appropriately disguised to prevent client identification.

(10) Confidentiality if client is deceased. The psychologist shall comply with the Uniform Health Care Information Act, chapter 70.02 RCW.

(11) Confidentiality after termination of professional relationship. The psychologist shall continue to treat information regarding a client as confidential after the professional relationship between the psychologist and the client has ceased.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050(5) and chapter 18.83 RCW. 93-07-036 (Order 337B), § 246-924-363, filed 3/10/93, effective 4/10/93.]

WAC 246-924-364 Fees. (1) Disclosure of cost of services. The psychologist shall not mislead or withhold from the client, a prospective client, or third party payor, information about the cost of his/her professional services. A psychologist may participate in bartering only if:

(a) It is not clinically contraindicated; and
(b) The bartering relationship is not exploitive.

(2) Reasonableness of fee. The psychologist shall not exploit the client or responsible payor by charging a fee that is excessive for the services performed or by entering into an exploitive bartering arrangement in lieu of a fee.

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WAC 246-924-365 Assessment procedures. (1) Communication of results. The psychologist shall accompany communication of assessment procedures and test results, including automated test results, with appropriate interpretive aids and explanations. Psychologists shall not rely exclusively on automated test results in performing assessments.

(2) Limitations regarding assessment results. When reporting of the results of an assessment procedure, the psychologist shall include any relevant reservations, qualifications or limitations which affect the validity, reliability, or other interpretation of results.

(3) Protection of integrity of assessment procedures. In publications, lectures, or public presentations, psychologists shall not reproduce or describe psychological tests or other devices in ways which might invalidate them.

(4) Psychologists shall maintain the integrity and security of tests and other assessment techniques consistent with contractual obligations and the law, including the Uniform Health Care Information Act, chapter 70.02 RCW.

(5) Advertising newly developed procedures. Information for professional users. The psychologist advertising for sale a newly developed assessment procedure or automated interpretation service to other professionals shall provide or make available a manual or other printed material which fully describes the development of the assessment procedure or service, the rationale, evidence of validity and reliability, and characteristics of the normative population. The psychologist shall explicitly state the purpose and application for which the procedure is recommended and identify special qualifications required to administer and interpret it properly. The psychologist shall ensure that the advertisements for the assessment procedure or interpretive service are factual and descriptive.

WAC 246-924-366 Fraud, misrepresentation, or deception. The psychologist shall not use fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in obtaining a psychology license, in passing a psychology licensing examination, in assisting another to obtain a psychology license, or to pass a psychology licensing examination, in billing clients or third party payors, in providing psychological service, in reporting the results of psychological evaluations or services, or in conducting any other activity related to the practice of psychology.

WAC 246-924-367 Aiding illegal practice. Delegating professional responsibility. The psychologist shall not delegate professional responsibilities to a person not qualified and/or not appropriately credentialed to provide such services.

WAC 246-924-445 Parenting evaluations—Standards. Psychologists may be called upon to evaluate members of a family to assist in determining an appropriate residential arrangement, parental duties, or parental relationship with respect to a minor child. These rules establish minimum standards for conducting parenting evaluations. The psychologist must perform the evaluation focusing on the best interest of the child. In the event that there is more than one child in the family, these rules apply to each child in the family.

(1) The psychologist shall assess relevant ethnic and cultural issues and shall consider the following factors:

(a) The relative strength, nature, and stability of the child's relationship with each parent;

(b) Which parent has taken greater responsibility for performing parenting functions relating to the daily needs of the child;

(c) Each parent's past and potential ability to perform parenting functions; and

(d) The emotional needs and developmental level of the child.

(2) The psychologist may consider the following:

(a) Any voluntary agreements of the parties;

(b) The child's relationship with siblings and with other significant adults, as well as the child's involvement with his or her physical surroundings, school, or other significant activities;

(c) The wishes of the parents and the wishes of a child who is sufficiently mature to express reasoned and independent preferences as to his or her residential schedule; and

(d) Each parent's employment schedule.

(3) In conducting parenting evaluations, the psychologist shall not discriminate based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status, or any basis prohibited by law.

(4) The psychologist may make recommendations regarding the primary residential parent, shared residential time, decision-making authority or other variables involving more than one of the parties. If recommendations are made, the parenting evaluation must include an assessment of each of the relevant parties being considered and their ability to function as a parent.

(5) In reaching a conclusion or making a recommendation, the psychologist shall consider the existence of limiting factors as outlined in RCW 26.09.191. The psychologist shall be familiar with or obtain consultation regarding the psychological aspects of child abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse, and family conflict. Recommendations and conclusions, if any, reached in an evaluation must be based on information from more than one source and must be supported by the data collected. Sources of information may include:

(a) Face-to-face interviews with the parties;

(b) Collateral contact interviews;

(c) An opportunity for each party to express concerns or issues in writing;

(d) A review of pleadings;

(e) Written input from collateral sources;

(f) Written documentation from the parties;

(g) Direct observation of the parties with their children;

(h) Psychological testing of the parties and/or their children;
(i) A review of relevant records (e.g., school or counseling records, child protective services records, substance abuse evaluations);
(j) Prior criminal convictions;
(k) Current involvement of law enforcement; and
(l) Face-to-face interviews with the children.

6. If the psychologist uses psychological testing as part of the evaluation, the psychologist must interpret the test(s) consistent with current research or standards of practice.

7. The psychologist shall not have provided therapeutic services to any party involved in the evaluation. Unless there are mitigating circumstances, the psychologist shall decline to perform a parenting evaluation. Providing service in a rural or underserved area with limited professional options is an example of a possible mitigating circumstance.

8. The psychologist shall avoid multiple relationships when conducting parenting evaluations. If the previous or current relationship is substantially likely to impair objectivity, the psychologist shall decline the appointment or withdraw. The psychologist shall disclose multiple relationships to the parties or their legal representatives and document the disclosure in the client records.

9. Relevant comments about a person not personally evaluated may be included if the report clearly identifies the source for the comment and states that the person to which the comment relates was not evaluated by the psychologist.

10. Psychologists shall maintain a written record of the evaluation. At a minimum, the written record shall include the following:
   (a) Court order or signed consent from all parties to conduct the evaluation;
   (b) Written retainer agreement;
   (c) Appropriate court order or signed authorizations for release of information;
   (d) Documentation of dates of service, nature of service and fee charged;
   (e) A copy of the evaluation report; and
   (f) The information and sources used for the evaluation.

11. The psychologist shall disclose the following specific information to the parties in writing at the outset of the evaluation assignment. All requests for records must be processed in accordance with chapter 70.02 RCW.
   (a) The entity or individual that has requested the evaluation if it is done at the request of a third party;
   (b) The entity or individual that is responsible for the bill;
   (c) Fee structure;
   (d) The entity, agency or individual that will receive the results or the report;
   (e) Limits on confidentiality; and
   (f) General procedures to be followed.

12. The psychologist shall make available upon request to the clients or their counsel:
   (a) The documents the psychologist relied upon during the evaluation process;
   (b) The identity of collateral contacts;
   (c) Notes taken during all interviews of the parties or collaterals;
   (d) If, however, the psychologist believes that release of information provided by the child, may be harmful to the child, the psychologist may withhold those notes unless directed to do otherwise by the court. The psychologist shall document the reasons for withholding the information in the file;
   (e) Dates of evaluation procedures and charges;
   (f) All correspondence associated with the case;
   (g) The psychologist shall not provide raw test data including test questions, answer sheets, profile scores, computer generated interpretations, or copyrighted materials to nonpsychologists. The psychologist may provide this information to another psychologist or another individual who is qualified to interpret it, with proper authorization from the client or the client's attorney. Protected test materials and raw data may be provided as directed by the court.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050. 07-12-090, § 246-924-445, filed 6/6/07, effective 7/7/07.]

WAC 246-924-467 Limited services related to parenting evaluations. (1) A psychologist may perform limited evaluative services related to, but not intended to be, a full parenting evaluation. Examples of these services include:
   (a) Evaluating the parenting ability of a party;
   (b) Evaluating substance abuse status of a party;
   (c) Assessing psychological functioning of a party;
   (d) Performing a sexual deviance evaluation;
   (e) Conducting a domestic violence assessment;
   (f) Assessing allegations of sexual or physical abuse of a child; and
   (g) Performing a vocational assessment of a party. The evaluator shall limit conclusions and recommendations to the scope of the requested assessment.

(2) With an appropriate authorization, a psychologist who has provided therapeutic services may provide information to the court or an evaluator regarding a client. Relevant information may include, but is not limited to:
   (a) Diagnosis, clinical and personality assessment;
   (b) Treatment plan, or prognosis.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050. 07-12-090, § 246-924-467, filed 6/6/07, effective 7/7/07.]

WAC 246-924-470 Examination fees—Failure to appear at examination session. Examination and examination administration fees shall be forfeited whenever a candidate fails to attend a scheduled examination session, except in the case of a bona fide emergency.


WAC 246-924-475 Model procedural rules. The examining board of psychology hereby adopts the model procedural rules for boards as filed by the department of health as chapter 246-11 WAC, including subsequent amendments.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050(5). 93-16-027 (Order 382), § 246-924-475, filed 7/26/93, effective 8/26/93.]

WAC 246-924-480 Temporary permits. A temporary permit is issued under RCW 18.83.082 and is valid for no more than ninety days within one calendar year from the date it is issued.

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(10/4/11)
WAC 246-924-483 How to obtain a temporary practice permit while the national background check is completed. Fingerprint-based national background checks may cause a delay in licensing. Individuals who satisfy all other licensing requirements and qualifications may receive a temporary practice permit while the national background check is completed.

1. A temporary practice permit may be issued to an applicant who:
   a. Holds an unrestricted, active license to practice psychology in another state that has substantially equivalent licensing standards to those in Washington state;
   b. Is not subject to denial of a license or issuance of a conditional or restricted license; and
   c. Does not have a criminal record in Washington state.

2. A temporary practice permit grants the individual the full scope of practice of psychology.

3. A temporary practice permit will not be renewed, reissued, or extended. A temporary practice permit expires when any one of the following occurs:
   a. The license is granted;
   b. A notice of decision on application is mailed to the applicant, unless the notice of decision on the application specifically extends the duration of the temporary practice permit; or
   c. Two hundred ten days after the temporary practice permit is issued.

4. To receive a temporary practice permit, the applicant must:
   a. Submit the necessary application, fee(s), and documentation for the license;
   b. Meet all requirements and qualifications for the license, except the results from a fingerprint-based national background check, if required.
   c. Provide verification of having an active unrestricted license to practice psychology from another state that has substantially equivalent licensing standards as Washington state.
   d. Submit the fingerprint card and a written request for a temporary practice permit when the department notifies the applicant the national background check is required.

WAC 246-924-495 Qualifications for granting a license. Candidates applying for initial licensure under RCW 18.83.170 must meet the following requirements:

1. Submit a completed application form provided by the department.
2. Pay the application and examination fees described in WAC 246-924-990.
3. Provide evidence of completing a doctoral degree program described in WAC 246-924-046.
4. Provide evidence of completing the practicum requirement set forth in WAC 246-924-049.
5. Provide evidence of completing the internship experience requirement as defined in WAC 246-924-056.
6. Provide evidence of completion of supervised experience requirement as defined in WAC 246-924-053 and 246-924-059.
7. Pass the national Examination of Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP) described in WAC 246-924-070.
8. Pass the jurisprudence examination in WAC 246-924-070.

WAC 246-924-500 Retired active credential. A practitioner may obtain a retired active credential. Refer to the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 5.

WAC 246-924-990 Psychology fees and renewal cycle. (1) Licenses must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(2) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

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[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.83.050, 08-09-100, § 246-924-480, filed 4/21/08, effective 5/22/08; 91-04-020 (Order 117B), recodified as § 246-924-480, filed 1/28/91, effective 2/28/91; 88-09-029 (Order PM 722), § 308-122-720, filed 4/15/88.]