

(c) Being convicted or found guilty, regardless of adjudication, of a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice of his profession or the ability to practice his profession. A plea of *nolo contendere* creates a rebuttable presumption of guilt of the underlying criminal charges. However, the board shall allow the person who is the subject of the disciplinary proceeding to present any evidence relevant to the underlying charges and circumstances surrounding the plea.

(d) False, deceptive, or misleading advertising or obtaining a fee or other thing of value on the representation that beneficial results from any treatment will be guaranteed.

(e) Advertising, practicing, or attempting to practice under a name other than one's own.

(f) Maintaining a professional association with any person whom the applicant or licensee knows, or has reason to believe, is in violation of this chapter or of a rule of the department or, in the case of psychologists, of the department or the board.

(g) Knowingly aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising any nonlicensed person to hold himself out as licensed under this chapter.

(h) Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a person licensed under this chapter.

(i) Willfully making or filing a false report or record; failing to file a report or record required by state or federal law; willfully impeding or obstructing the filing of a report or record; or inducing another person to make or file a false report or record or to impede or obstruct the filing of a report or record. Such report or record includes only a report or record which requires the signature of a person licensed under this chapter.

(j) Paying a kickback, rebate, bonus, or other remuneration for receiving a patient or client, or receiving a kickback, rebate, bonus, or other remuneration for referring a patient or client to another provider of mental health care services or to a provider of health care services or goods; referring a patient or client to oneself for services on a fee-paid basis when those services are already being paid for by some other public or private entity; or entering into a reciprocal referral agreement.

(k) Committing any act upon a patient or client which would constitute sexual battery or which would constitute sexual misconduct as defined in s. 490.0111.

(l) Making misleading, deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representations in the practice of any profession licensed under this chapter.

(m) Soliciting patients or clients personally, or through an agent, through the use of fraud, intimidation, undue influence, or a form of overreaching or vexatious conduct.

(n) Failing to make available to a patient or client, upon written request, copies of test results, reports, or documents in the possession or under the control of the licensee which have been prepared for and paid for by the patient or client.

(o) Failing to respond within 30 days to a written communication from the department concerning any investigation by the department or to make available any relevant records with respect to any investigation about the licensee's conduct or background.

(p) Being unable to practice the profession for which he is licensed under this chapter with reasonable skill or competence as a result of any mental or physical condition or by reason of illness; drunkenness; or excessive use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other substance. In enforcing this paragraph, upon a finding by the secretary, his designee, or the board that probable cause exists to believe that the licensee is unable to practice the profession because of the reasons stated in this paragraph, the department shall have the authority to compel a licensee to submit to a mental or physical examination by psychologists or physicians designated by the department or board. If the licensee refuses to comply with the department's order, the department may file a petition for enforcement in the circuit court of the circuit in which the licensee resides or does business. The licensee shall not be named or identified by initials in the petition or in any other public court records or documents, and the enforcement proceedings shall be closed to the public. The department shall be entitled to the summary procedure provided in s. 51.011. A licensee affected under this paragraph shall be afforded an opportunity at reasonable intervals to demonstrate that he can resume the competent practice for which he is licensed with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

(q) Violating provisions of this chapter, or of chapter 455, or any rules adopted pursuant thereto.

(r) Performing any treatment or prescribing any therapy which, by the prevailing standards of the mental health professions in the community, would constitute experimentation on human subjects, without first obtaining full, informed, and written consent.

(s) Failing to meet the minimum standards of performance in professional activities when measured against generally prevailing peer performance, including the undertaking of activities for which the licensee is not qualified by training or experience.

(t) Delegating professional responsibilities to a person whom the licensee knows or has reason to know is not qualified by training or experience to perform such responsibilities.

(u) Violating a rule relating to the regulation of the profession or a lawful order of the department previously entered in a disciplinary hearing.

(v) Failing to maintain in confidence a communication made by a patient or client in the context of such services, except by written permission or in the face of a clear and immediate probability of bodily harm to the patient or client or to others.

(w) Making public statements which are derived from test data, client contacts, or behavioral research and which identify or damage research subjects or clients.

History.—ss. 1, 3, ch. 81-235; s. 35, ch. 83-215; ss. 1, 3, ch. 83-265; s. 9, ch. 84-203; ss. 8, 18, 19, ch. 87-252; s. 36, ch. 88-392; ss. 6, 12, 13, ch. 89-70; s. 10, ch. 90-192; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 112, ch. 92-149; s. 8, ch. 95-279; s. 228, ch. 96-410.

CHAPTER 491

CLINICAL, COUNSELING, AND PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICES

491.009 Discipline.

491.009 Discipline.—

(1) When the department or the board finds that an applicant, licensee, or certificateholder whom it regulates under this chapter has committed any of the acts set forth in subsection (2), it may issue an order imposing one or more of the following penalties:

(a) Denial of an application for licensure or certification, either temporarily or permanently.

(b) Revocation of an application for licensure or certification, either temporarily or permanently.

(c) Suspension for a period of up to 5 years or revocation of a license or certificate, after hearing.

(d) Immediate suspension of a license or certificate pursuant to s. 120.60(6).

(e) Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each count or separate offense.

(f) Issuance of a public reprimand.

(g) Placement of an applicant, licensee, or certificateholder on probation for a period of time and subject to such conditions as the board may specify, including, but not limited to, requiring the applicant, licensee, or certificateholder to submit to treatment, to attend continuing education courses, to submit to reexamination, or to work under the supervision of a designated licensee or certificateholder.

(h) Restriction of practice.

(2) The following acts of a licensee, certificateholder, or applicant are grounds for which the disciplinary actions listed in subsection (1) may be taken:

(a) Attempting to obtain, obtaining, or renewing a license or certificate under this chapter by bribery or fraudulent misrepresentation or through an error of the board or the department.

(b) Having a license or certificate to practice a comparable profession revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including the denial of certification or licensure by another state, territory, or country.

(c) Being convicted or found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or having entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice of his profession or the ability to practice his profession. However, in the case of a plea of nolo contendere, the board shall allow the person who is the subject of the disciplinary proceeding to present evidence in mitigation relevant to the underlying charges and circumstances surrounding the plea.

(d) False, deceptive, or misleading advertising or obtaining a fee or other thing of value on the representation that beneficial results from any treatment will be guaranteed.

(e) Advertising, practicing, or attempting to practice under a name other than one's own.

(f) Maintaining a professional association with any person whom the applicant, licensee, or certificateholder knows, or has reason to believe, is in violation of this chapter or of a rule of the department or the board.

(g) Knowingly aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising any nonlicensed or noncertified person to hold himself out as licensed or certified under this chapter.

(h) Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a person licensed or certified under this chapter.

(i) Willfully making or filing a false report or record; failing to file a report or record required by state or federal law; willfully impeding or obstructing the filing of a report or record; or inducing another person to make or file a false report or record or to impede or obstruct the filing of a report or record. Such report or record includes only a report or record which requires the signature of a person licensed or certified under this chapter.

(j) Paying a kickback, rebate, bonus, or other remuneration for receiving a patient or client, or receiving a kickback, rebate, bonus, or other remuneration for referring a patient or client to another provider of mental health care services or to a provider of health care services or goods; referring a patient or client to oneself for services on a fee-paid-basis when those services are already being paid for by some other public or private entity; or entering into a reciprocal referral agreement.

(k) Committing any act upon a patient or client which would constitute sexual battery or which would constitute sexual misconduct as defined pursuant to s. 491.0111.

(l) Making misleading, deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representations in the practice of any profession licensed or certified under this chapter.

(m) Soliciting patients or clients personally, or through an agent, through the use of fraud, intimidation, undue influence, or a form of overreaching or vexatious conduct.

(n) Failing to make available to a patient or client, upon written request, copies of tests, reports, or documents in the possession or under the control of the licensee or certificateholder which have been prepared for and paid for by the patient or client.

(o) Failing to respond within 30 days to a written communication from the department or the board concerning any investigation by the department or the board, or failing to make available any relevant records with respect to any investigation about the licensee's or the certificateholder's conduct or background.

(p) Being unable to practice the profession for which he is licensed or certified under this chapter with reasonable skill or competence as a result of any mental or physical condition or by reason of illness; drunkenness; or excessive use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other substance. In enforcing this paragraph, upon a finding by the secretary, his designee, or the board that probable cause exists to believe that the licensee or certificateholder is unable to practice the profession because of the reasons stated in this paragraph, the department shall have the authority to compel a licensee or certificateholder to submit to a mental or physical examination by psychologists, physicians, or other licensees under this chapter, designated by the department or board. If the licensee or certificateholder refuses to comply with such order, the department's order directing the examination may be enforced by filing a petition for enforcement in the circuit court in the circuit in which the licensee or certificateholder resides or does business. The licensee or certificateholder against whom the petition is filed shall not be named or identified by initials in any public court records or documents, and the proceedings shall be closed to the public. The department shall be entitled to the summary procedure

provided in s. 51.011. A licensee or certificateholder affected under this paragraph shall at reasonable intervals be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate that he can resume the competent practice for which he is licensed or certified with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

(q) Violating provisions of this chapter, or of chapter 455, or any rules adopted pursuant thereto.

(r) Performing any treatment or prescribing any therapy which, by the prevailing standards of the mental health professions in the community, would constitute experimentation on human subjects, without first obtaining full, informed, and written consent.

(s) Failing to meet the minimum standards of performance in professional activities when measured against generally prevailing peer performance, including the undertaking of activities for which the licensee or certificateholder is not qualified by training or experience.

(t) Delegating professional responsibilities to a person whom the licensee or certificateholder knows or has reason to know is not qualified by training or experience to perform such responsibilities.

(u) Violating a rule relating to the regulation of the profession or a lawful order of the department or the board previously entered in a disciplinary hearing.

(v) Failure of the licensee or certificateholder to maintain in confidence a communication made by a patient or client in the context of such services, except by written permission or in the face of a clear and immediate probability of bodily harm to the patient or client or to others.

(w) Making public statements which are derived from test data, client contacts, or behavioral research and which identify or damage research subjects or clients.

History.—ss. 15, 19, ch. 87-252; ss. 9, 19, 20, ch. 90-263; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 229, ch. 96-410.

CHAPTER 493

PRIVATE INVESTIGATIVE, PRIVATE SECURITY, AND REPOSSESSION SERVICES

PART I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 493.6101 Definitions.
493.6102 Inapplicability of parts I through IV of this chapter.
493.6108 Investigation of applicants by Department of State.
493.6121 Enforcement; investigation.
493.6122 Information about licensees; confidentiality.

493.6101 Definitions.—

- (1) "Department" means the Department of State.
(2) "Person" means any individual, firm, company, agency, organization, partnership, or corporation.
(3) "Licensee" means any person licensed under this chapter.

(4) The personal pronoun "he" implies the impersonal pronoun "it."

(5) "Principal officer" means an individual who holds the office of president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer in a corporation.

(6) "Advertising" means the submission of bids, contracting, or making known by any public notice or solicitation of business, directly or indirectly, that services regulated under this chapter are available for consideration.

(7) "Good moral character" means a personal history of honesty, fairness, and respect for the rights and property of others and for the laws of this state and nation.

(8) "Conviction" means an adjudication of guilt by a federal or state court resulting from plea or trial, regardless of whether imposition of sentence was suspended.

(9) "Unarmed" means that no firearm shall be carried by the licensee while providing services regulated by this chapter.

(10) "Branch office" means each additional location of an agency where business is actively conducted which advertises as performing or is engaged in the business authorized by the license.

(11) "Sponsor" means any Class "C," Class "MA," or Class "M" licensee who supervises and maintains under his direction and control a Class "CC" intern; or any Class "E" or Class "MR" licensee who supervises and maintains under his direction and control a Class "EE" intern.

(12) "Intern" means an individual who studies as a trainee or apprentice under the direction and control of a designated sponsoring licensee.

(13) "Manager" means any licensee who directs the activities of licensees at any agency or branch office. The manager shall be assigned to and shall primarily operate from the agency or branch office location for which he has been designated as manager.

(14) "Firearm instructor" means any Class "K" licensee who provides classroom or range instruction to applicants for a Class "G" license.

(15) "Private investigative agency" means any person who, for consideration, advertises as providing or is engaged in the business of furnishing private investigations.

(16) "Private investigator" means any individual who, for consideration, advertises as providing or performs private investigation. This does not include an informant who, on a one-time or limited basis, as a result of a unique expertise, ability, vocation, or special access and who, under the direction and control of a Class "C" licensee or a Class "MA" licensee, provides information or services that would otherwise be included in the definition of private investigation.

(17) "Private investigation" means bodyguard services or the investigation by a person or persons for the purpose of obtaining information with reference to any of the following matters:

- (a) Crime or wrongs done or threatened against the United States or any state or territory of the United States, when operating under express written authority of the governmental official responsible for authorizing such investigation.