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Judith Pachter Schulder
State Board of Psychology, One Penn Center
.2601 North Third Street,
P. O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649



August 22, 2012

Dear Ms. Schulder,

Firstly, I hope that I'm using the proper salutation!

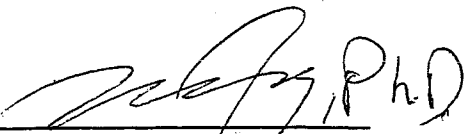
I appreciate the effort put forth to simplify the State Board of Psychology Code of Ethics (49 PA. Code CH 41; 42 Pa. B. 5355). I have an objection about one proposed change, though. My objection regards the possible elimination of the term "client". Specifically, I work with people who are post-traumatically brain injured. I work in a rehabilitation model, not a medical model. These individuals are usually 'medically stable' and typically do not warrant a focus on additional medical care.

I believe that the use of the term "patient" invites a medical interpretation of the basis of the therapeutic relationship. This is an especially poignant concern at a time when clients take on the active role required to complete a trial of brain injury rehabilitation.

Please accept my sincere appreciation of collective efforts to adhere to the principle of parsimony during the process of redefining 'psychology law'. Also note that the elimination of the term "client", in favor of the term "patient", embeds our profession in medical cant: I am opposed to that move.

Thank you, Ms. Schulder, for 'hearing' me out.

Most Respectfully,


Michael "Mick" Sittig, Ph.D.
Rehabilitation Psychologist

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