

How Do I Choose a Behavioral Science Professional? (Continued)

Additionally, you may call the national, state and local professional associations for each profession to request information about an individual professional. Decide if age, gender, geographic location, or personal philosophy of the professional matters to you.

Once you have a list of potential providers, check the behavioral science professional's license status by calling the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board at (785) 296-3240. Find out if the professional is currently licensed and in good standing.

Next meet with the behavioral science professional to see if the two of you are compatible. You may decide you prefer to work with someone older or younger, of a particular ethnic group or a different gender.

You may also find it helpful to discuss your situation with one or more of the following individuals:

- Insurance Provider
- Check with your employer to see if you have an Employee Assistance Program and ask for a referral to a licensed professional.
- A trustworthy family physician, behavioral science professional, or other qualified health professional.
- A trustworthy family member or friend.
- A member of the clergy.
- An Attorney.

What Should I do if I have a problem with my Behavioral Science Professional?

If you think that your licensed professional has broken the law, violated your rights, or caused you harm in any way, call:

Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
712 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 296-3240
Roger.Scurlock@bsrb.state.ks.us
www.ksbsrb.org

The Board staff can tell you how to file a complaint and will refer you to other agencies if necessary. The Board has the authority to take action against the professional's license.



Paid for with Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board revenues.

Do You Need Personal or Family Help?



Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
712 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603-3817
(785) 296-3240
www.ksbsrb.org

Every year thousands of Kansans visit behavioral science professionals for help in better understanding themselves and others and dealing with personal and or family problems. If you think you may need to see a licensed professional, this pamphlet can help you. It will provide guidance for choosing a professional and explain what a licensed professional should NOT do. It will also tell you what to do if you think your professional has broken the law or overstepped professional boundaries. For additional information you may look under FAQ's on our website.

What Are Some Services a Behavioral Science Professional Provide?

Some behavioral science professionals can diagnose and treat mental disorders. Certain licensed professionals can also develop, give, and interpret tests of mental abilities, aptitudes, interests, personality characteristics and motivation. Behavioral Science professionals also may provide individual and group psychotherapy, family therapy and counseling, marital therapy and counseling to help with problems of every day life.

How Do I Choose a Behavioral Science Professional?

It is important to take time to select the right behavioral science professional. First, decide with what area you want help. It could be your children, spouse, elderly parents, child custody, substance abuse, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, etc. Verify the professional is licensed and qualified to meet your needs. Ask friends or relatives for recommendations. Also check with your health insurance company for a list of authorized providers.

(Continued on Back)

Who are the Professionals?

The Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board licenses many different professionals through tiered licensure.

There are those who have doctoral degrees and have met the requirements for licensure. They are **Licensed Psychologists**.

There are those who have masters or doctoral degrees, and have completed additional training in order to practice independently. They are the **Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Licensed Clinical Psychotherapist, and Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist**.

These previous groups may diagnose and treat clients independently.

Then there are professionals who have a masters degree and must work under direction or supervision of a qualified licensed professional. They are the **Licensed Masters Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Masters Level Psychologist and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist**.

There are also professionals who have a bachelors degree in social work, have passed a national exam, and must work under supervision. They are the **Licensed Bachelor Social Workers**.

What Are Behavioral Science Professionals NOT Supposed to do?

It's good to remember that some practitioners bend or break the rules. Unfortunately, by doing so, behavioral science professionals can directly or indirectly cause harm to their patients. Here are some things that licensed professionals **SHOULD NEVER DO**:

- Have any type of sexual contact with a patient, including inappropriate touching or kissing. This type of behavior is NEVER acceptable.
- Violate a patient's confidentiality.
- Provide services for which they have not been trained and educated.
- Abuse drugs.
- Commit fraud or other crimes.
- Pay or accept compensation for referral of patients.
- Advertise falsely.
- Act in an unprofessional, unethical, or negligent manner.
- Focus therapy on their own problems, rather than on those of the patient.