

74-7508. Investigations by board; access to documents and other evidence; oaths and testimony; subpoenas; confidentiality of information; exceptions; client or patient communications.

(a) In connection with any investigation, based upon a written complaint or other reasonably reliable written information, by the behavioral sciences regulatory board, the board or its duly authorized agents or employees shall at all reasonable times have access to, for the purpose of examination, and the right to copy any document, report, record or other physical evidence of any person being investigated, or any document, report, record or other evidence maintained by and in possession of any clinic or office of a practitioner of the behavioral sciences, or other public or private agency if such document, report, record or other physical evidence relates to practices which may be grounds for disciplinary action.

(b) In all matters pending before the behavioral sciences regulatory board, the board shall have the power to administer oaths and take testimony. For the purpose of all investigations and proceedings conducted by the behavioral sciences regulatory board:

(1) The board may issue subpoenas compelling the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production for examination or copying of documents, reports, records or any other physical evidence if such documents, reports, records or other physical evidence relates to practices which may be grounds for disciplinary action. Within five days after the service of the subpoena on any person requiring the production of any documents, reports, records or other physical evidence in the person's possession or under the person's control, such person may petition the board to revoke, limit or modify the subpoena. The board shall revoke, limit or modify such subpoena if in its opinion the documents, reports, records or other physical evidence required does not relate to practices which may be grounds for disciplinary action, is not relevant to the allegation which is the subject matter of the proceeding or investigation, or does not describe with sufficient particularity the documents, reports, records or other physical evidence which is required to be produced. Any member of the board, or any agent designated by the board, may administer oaths or affirmations, examine witnesses and receive such documents, reports, records or other physical evidence.

(2) The district court, upon application by the board or by the person subpoenaed, shall have jurisdiction to issue an order:

(A) Requiring such person to appear before the board or the board's duly authorized agent to produce documents, reports, records or other physical evidence relating to the matter under investigation; or

(B) revoking, limiting or modifying the subpoena if in the court's opinion the evidence demanded does not relate to practices which may be grounds for disciplinary action, is not relevant to the allegation which is the subject matter of the hearing or investigation or does not describe with sufficient particularity the documents, reports, records or other physical evidence which is required to be produced.

(3) (A) If the board determines that an individual has practiced without a valid license a profession regulated by the board for which the practitioners of the profession are required by law to be licensed in order to practice the profession, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law, the board, in accordance with the Kansas administrative procedure act, may issue a cease and desist order against such individual.

(B) Whenever in the judgment of the behavioral sciences regulatory board any person

has engaged, or is about to engage, in any acts or practices which constitute, or will constitute, a violation of K.S.A. 65-6301 to 65-6320, inclusive, and amendments thereto, 74-5361 to 74-5374, inclusive, and K.S.A. 2003 Supp. 74-5375, and amendments thereto, the licensure of psychologists act, the marriage and family therapists licensure act or the alcohol and other drug abuse counselor registration act, or any valid rule or regulation of the board, the board may make application to any court of competent jurisdiction for an order enjoining such acts or practices, and upon a showing by the board that such person has engaged, or is about to engage in any such acts or practices, an injunction, restraining order, or such other order as may be appropriate shall be granted by such court without bond.

(c) Any complaint or report, record or other information relating to a complaint which is received, obtained or maintained by the behavioral sciences regulatory board shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed by the board or its employees in a manner which identifies or enables identification of the person who is the subject or source of the information except the information may be disclosed:

(1) In any proceeding conducted by the board under the law or in an appeal of an order of the board entered in a proceeding, or to any party to a proceeding or appeal or the party's attorney;

(2) to the person who is the subject of the information or to any person or entity when requested by the person who is the subject of the information, but the board may require disclosure in such a manner that will prevent identification of any other person who is the subject or source of the information; or

(3) to a state or federal licensing, regulatory or enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the subject of the information or to an agency with jurisdiction over acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct which would constitute grounds for action under this act. Any confidential complaint or report, record or other information disclosed by the board as authorized by this section shall not be redisclosed by the receiving agency except as otherwise authorized by law.

(d) Nothing in this section or any other provision of law making communications between a practitioner of one of the behavioral sciences and the practitioner's client or patient a privileged or confidential communication shall apply to investigations or proceedings conducted pursuant to this section. The behavioral sciences regulatory board and its employees, agents and representatives shall keep in confidence the content and the names of any clients or patients whose records are reviewed during the course of investigations and proceedings pursuant to this section.

(e) In all matters pending before the behavioral sciences regulatory board, the board shall have the power to revoke the license or registration of any licensee or registrant who voluntarily surrenders such person's license or registration pending investigation of misconduct or while charges of misconduct against the licensee are pending or anticipated.

(f) In all matters pending before the behavioral sciences regulatory board, the board shall have the option to censure the licensee or registrant in lieu of other disciplinary action.

History: L. 1980, ch. 242, § 8; L. 2001, ch. 154, § 1; L. 2004 ch. 16, § 6, July 1, 2004.