



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

December 10, 2019

Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners
1740 West Adams, Suite 3403
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Members of the Board:

I write today with serious concern for the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners' implementation of Arizona Revised Statutes §32-4302—better known as licensure by “universal recognition.”

Earlier this year, Arizona became the first state in the nation to adopt universal licensing recognition. The law rolls back unnecessary bureaucracy and restrictions to work. It allows Arizona residents to use a professional or occupational license from another jurisdiction to qualify for an Arizona license and get to work more easily to support their families and serve Arizona residents. Other states are following Arizona's lead. Within the state, regulatory boards like the Arizona Medical Board and the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners are implementing this law with overwhelming support to further opportunity for Arizonans.

At its November 1, 2019 meeting, the Board discussed their concern with universal recognition. Some of the Board members expressed their desire to deny licenses to individuals who have lived in Arizona for “too long” or completed different requirements in their home state than are required in Arizona. There was even a discussion to use the hostile tactic of denying these licenses, violating the law as it stands today, and forcing these Arizonans who are seeking the opportunity to work to go all the way to court to fight against the Board's decisions. This gamesmanship by some Board members falls far below the standard expected of Board members.

Universal recognition represents a landmark policy change. The most substantial change under the law is the fact that Arizona now accepts licenses from all other states *regardless* of variances in licensing requirements in those states, even if out-of-state requirements are substantially different than Arizona's standards. It is not the job of this Board to second guess the requirements adopted for psychologists or behavior analysts in other states. Additionally, the statute is clear that there are no time minimums or maximums for state residency for applicants to be eligible for licensure under universal recognition.

I will remind you of the oath everyone serving on a regulatory board takes, to serve as a neutral administrator of the law as written, without preference for any policy direction. The law is clear and your responsibility is to carry it out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas A. Ducey".

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona