



**OPINION AND DECLARATORY RULING REGARDING 202A EVALUATIONS CONDUCTED
BY LICENSED PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES AND TEMPORARILY LICENSED
PSYCHOLOGISTS**

On Whether 202A Evaluations Conducted By Licensed Psychological Associates And Temporarily Licensed Psychologists Require Countersignature By A Board-Appointed Supervisor.

The Board has been asked whether KRS 202A evaluations completed by a licensed psychological associate and temporarily licensed psychologists require countersigning by a Board-appointed supervisor. KRS 202A, the Kentucky Mental Health Hospitalization Act, provides that a judge may order a person involuntarily hospitalized for a period not to exceed seventy-two (72) hours, excluding weekends and holidays, following an examination by a qualified mental health professional and a certification by that professional that the person meets the criteria for involuntary hospitalization. In this opinion, we will refer to this examination and certification as a "202A evaluation."

Licensed psychological associates and temporarily licensed psychologists are qualified mental health professionals who are authorized by law to perform 202A evaluations. Such evaluations are routinely completed on a form provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts, AOC 712. The completion of a 202A evaluation does not involve formal psychological testing, but is the result of a face-to-face interview, often conducted in the middle of the night or under other extreme circumstances. The intent of the 202A evaluation is to expedite a person's further evaluation and immediate treatment at an appropriate facility. The minimal criteria which are evaluated are whether the person is or is not "mentally ill and presents a danger to self, family, or others, that he or she can reasonably benefit from this treatment and for whom hospitalization is the least restrictive alternative mode of treatment presently available."

Based upon the above, the Board concludes that 202A evaluations are not the formal "psychological assessments" which are mandated to be "read and countersigned" by the supervisor of a temporarily licensed psychologist and a temporarily licensed psychological associate as otherwise mandated by 201 KAR 26:171 § 8(1). 202A evaluations may be performed and signed alone by the temporarily licensed psychologist and the temporarily licensed psychological associate.

The Board therefore asserts that 202A evaluations do not qualify as formal "psychological assessments" and thus do not require countersignature of a supervisor when completed by a licensed psychological associate or a temporarily licensed psychologist.

Although countersignature is not required, the Board would certainly encourage a thorough discussion of the decision to recommend involuntary hospitalization during the course of routine supervisory sessions. 201 KAR 26:171 § 8 mandates, among other conditions, that the supervisor "have direct observation of the supervisee's work, have direct knowledge of the size and complexity of the supervisee's caseload, and have knowledge of the therapeutic modalities and techniques being used by the supervisee."

This opinion is adopted by the Board on April 5, 2004.

Handwritten signature of Tracy D. Eells in cursive script.

Chair