



October 13, 2023

The Honorable Sherie L. Friedrich, Psy.D.
Chair, New Hampshire Board of Psychologists
New Hampshire Office of Professional Licensure and Certification
7 Eagle Square
Concord, NH 03301
OPLC-Rules@oplc.nh.gov

RE: ATA ACTION COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULE PSYC 304

Dear Dr. Friedrich and members of the Board of Psychologists,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express our support and provide additional comments on the proposed addition of Psyc 304 regarding the application process for tele-pass license in the rules governing licensed psychologists.

ATA Action, the American Telemedicine Association's affiliated trade association focused on advocacy, advances policy to ensure all individuals have permanent access to telehealth services across the care continuum. ATA Action supports the enactment of state and federal telehealth policies to secure telehealth access for all Americans, including those in rural and underserved communities. ATA Action recognizes that telehealth and virtual care have the potential to truly transform the health care delivery system – by improving patient outcomes, enhancing safety and effectiveness of care, addressing health disparities, and reducing costs – if only allowed to flourish.

ATA Action believes that patients should be able to receive virtual care from their provider of choice, regardless of that provider's physical location, so long as the practitioners are utilizing the appropriate technology to uphold the established standard of care, are in good standing with their home states' regulatory boards, and can still be held accountable by the appropriate boards and state agencies should any issues arise from treatment. Permitting out-of-state licensed practitioners to acquire tele-pass licensure and deliver telehealth services to New Hampshire residents will help patients across the state connect with practitioners whenever and wherever their need for care arises, removing arbitrary geographical barriers that would limit New Hampshire patients' access to the health care services. ATA Action is appreciative and supportive of the creation of a tele-pass licensure process as a step forward for access to psychological telehealth care in New Hampshire.

While ATA Action remains in strong support of this proposed rule, there are select details which we encourage the Board to reconsider and amend before finalizing the rule. The requirements for tele-pass applicants to provide transcripts and fingerprints as a part of their application are duplicative and onerous for applicants. Both requirements would already have been met by applicant's licensure and good standing in other jurisdictions, required qualifications for any tele-pass applicants. Florida has established a similar registration to the tele-pass system for out-of-state telehealth providers which does not include these requirements and we encourage the Board to adopt this approach instead.¹ Requiring applicants to

¹ The 2023 Florida Statutes, Title XXXII Regulation of Professions and Occupations, Chapter 456 Health Professions and Occupations: General Provisions, 456.47.



meet additional transcript and fingerprint requirements will only slow applicant's progress towards a tele-pass license, delaying their ability to care for New Hampshire patients and creating additional administrative work for New Hampshire administrative staff.

Should the Board elect to keep these requirements in place, we encourage amendments to be made which will allow for electronic delivery of transcripts. The requirement for official transcripts showing the applicant received a doctoral level psychology degree to be mailed directly to the board by the issuing institution or submitted by the applicant in a sealed envelope from the institution would only further slowdown the application process and increase the administrative burden on state bureaucracy. Institutions of higher education can deliver transcripts more efficiently and at lower cost using electronic delivery methods, saving financial and administrative costs for both applicants and Office of Professional Licensure and Certification staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We urge the Board to adopt this proposed rule, while considering our proposed changes, in order to establish a tele-pass licensure application process to expand the Granite State's patients' access to high-quality, affordable health care. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the telehealth industry's perspective further, please contact me at kzebley@ataaction.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley", is written over a light gray circular watermark.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.47.html

ATA ACTION

901 N. Glebe Road, Ste 850 | Arlington, VA 22203
Info@ataaction.org