

## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	January 29, 2018
<b>TO</b>	Board Members
<b>FROM</b>	<i>Stephanie Cheung</i> Stephanie Cheung Licensing Manager
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item 18(b) – Psychological Assistant #3</b> Consideration of Licensing Committee Recommendations Regarding an Extension of the 72-Month Registration Period Limitation for Registered Psychological Assistant Pursuant to Section 1391.1(b) of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations

### **Background:**

California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 1391.1 provides in part:

(b) Registration as a psychological assistant shall be limited to a cumulative total of six years (72 months). Each registration shall be subject to annual renewal pursuant to section 1391.12.

For any psychological assistant registered prior to the effective date of this subdivision, subsequent renewals or registrations shall be limited to a cumulative total of six years (72 months) from the date of the psychological assistant's next registration or renewal, whichever occurs first.

Upon showing of good cause as determined by the Board, these specified time limitations may be reasonably modified.

### **Psychological Assistant (PSB) #3 – Request for an 18-month Extension of the 72-month registration period**

PSB #3 was issued a psychological assistant registration on October 10, 2012 which will expire on October 10, 2018 according to the 72-month limitation rule with the genesis date beginning on October 23, 2011.

PSB #3 is scheduled to graduate in May 2018 and has accumulated over 1,500 pre-doctoral hours.

PSB #3 is requesting an extension to the psychological assistantship to accrue the required 1,500 post-doctoral hours due to ongoing medical issues. Medical documentation was provided to support the request.

**Attachment:**

A: Letters of Request

**Action Requested:**

Review and consider the Licensing Committee's recommendation to grant the 18-month extension request of the 72-month limitation for the psychological assistant registration.

November 12, 2017

Stephanie Cheung  
Licensing Manager  
California Board of Psychology  
1625 N. Market Blvd., #N-215  
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Ms. Cheung:

I write this letter to respectfully request an 18-month extension to the 72-month registration limitation as a psychological assistant. My PSB registration began in October of 2012 and is due to expire October 2018. The requested extension would allow me the opportunity to accrue my post-doctoral hours within my current practice and under the education and training of my supervisor, [REDACTED], Ph.D.

Since my first-year practicum, I have known I wanted to devote my life to clinical practice. It was out of this love for clinical work that I started my practice under Dr. [REDACTED]. After beginning my psychological assistantship, I continued to work and grow my practice during my two-year pre-doctoral internship, and have been fortunate to build a successful private practice while working on my dissertation. Until realizing my mistake regarding the registration limitation, it was my plan to complete my post-doctoral hours and become licensed within 12-18 months after I graduate in May 2018. Dr. [REDACTED] and I have worked together to develop a strong plan for SPE hours accrual that would make this possible.

I want to advocate strongly for a continuity of care for my clients. I carry a caseload of long-term treatments and I believe my clients would ultimately benefit from our continued work together. Further, within this caseload are a number of individuals who struggle with severe disturbances. It has taken years to reach a place of stability in our work, and while I would do everything in my power to support them in transitioning to another practitioner, I believe the disruption in our treatment may cause significant negative consequences.

I would like to make you aware of two major medical issues I have needed to navigate over the past two years which have extended my time as a psychological assistant. Since 2015, I have been undergoing fertility treatments in hopes of having a child. Although I have not yet become pregnant, the process has been time-consuming and physically exhausting. The process requires many appointments and medical interventions that carry significant side effects. The time commitments and medical side effects have certainly impacted the pace of my dissertation writing, and thus my graduation.

In addition to fertility treatments, I also discovered in 2015 that a portion of my jaw had become damaged and I would need to undergo a series of procedures over a two-year period to repair the destroyed bone. Numerous bone grafts, the removal of my front teeth,

and significant orthodontic and periodontic interventions have required that I take time for both the procedures and recuperation under pain medications that did not allow me to clearly conduct dissertation work. The last procedure (non-invasive) is due for January and my schedule will no longer be impacted by this problem. These difficulties aside, I want to assure you that I am on track for a certain graduation in May 2018.

If the board sees fit to grant my extension I assure you that I will reach licensure in a timely manner. I intend to begin taking the EPPP as soon as possible upon graduation, to accrue hours diligently, and to prepare thoroughly for the CPLEE so that I may complete all licensure requirements. I also want to clarify that the plan for post-doctoral hours that Dr. [REDACTED] and I have discussed should allow me to complete 1500 hours in approximately 12-15 months. The 18-month request has a built-in contingency in the case that I do become pregnant and require any break in my ability to collect hours. I have included in this request a letter of support from Dr. [REDACTED] attesting to my commitment to both my patients and my career, as well as the impact of the aforementioned medical issues have had on my time as a registered psychological assistant so far. If you require any additional documentation, it will be my pleasure to meet any of your requirements. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Advanced Doctoral Candidate in Clinical Psychology  
[REDACTED]

████████████████████, Ph.D.  
████████████████████  
████████████████████  
████████████████████

November 15, 2017

Stephanie Cheung  
Licensing Manager  
California Board of Psychology  
1625 N. Market Blvd., #N-215  
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Ms. Cheung:

I am writing in support of ██████████ request for an 18-month extension to the 72-month registration limit as a psychological assistant.

██████████ has been a conscientious, organized and clinically astute therapist while practicing under my license. ██████ passion for the work and deep curiosity to learn about others, and ██████, bode well for a career as a successful clinician.

██████████ has kept me apprised of ██████ struggles with significant medical issues over the last two years. To ██████ credit these issues have not affected her clinical practice, but they clearly have taken a measurable toll on the amount of time she could allocate to finishing her dissertation in order to graduate.

One of the benefits of supervising ██████████ has been watching ██████ grow as a therapist, and specifically, admiring ██████ capacity to work with disturbed patients struggling with dual diagnosis disorders, suicidality, marked to severe trauma, and other challenging psychological conditions. From a clinical point of view, it is my opinion that an extension would also clinically benefit these more psychologically fragile patients by insuring the continuity of their treatment.

I have supervised a number of psychological interns, psychological assistants and early career clinicians over 25+ years as a licensed psychologist. ██████████ has distinguished ██████ in terms of clinical acumen, organizational skills, high ethical standards, and tenacity and resilience in the face of unforeseen situations. I have no doubt that ██████████ will utilize an extension to successfully finish ██████ studies, complete steps toward licensure, and move ahead professionally.

Sincerely,

██████████, Ph.D.  
CA Lic.# PSY ██████