

RPA Website Policies Regarding Listing Professional Qualifications Adopted August 2013

The Redwood Psychological Association has allowed members to identify specialties and promote services on the Membership list which is on our website. A recent review of CPA chapter sites in Northern California showed that all chapters had a "Find a Psychologist" section for members who are licensed psychologists and want to promote themselves and identify specialties. Only 2 chapters other than RPA had a Membership list in addition to the "Find a Psychologist" function, and in both those cases, the lists had names and addresses only with no indication of licensure and no opportunity to promote services. It is our belief that as long as we have the Member List allowing all members to describe what they do and to promote their services, a website policy including the following recommendations would be helpful in preventing the public from being misled or misinformed. We believe these recommendations are consistent with the expectations of the Board of Psychology and APA ethics rules for advertising.

1: RPA Website Listings: If a member describes and promotes activities under their name on the "Member List" section of our RPA website that could look to the public like what a licensed psychologist or other licensed therapist would do, that member needs to include either a License # (as psychologist or other mental health provider) or Registered Psychological Assistant # (including the Supervisors name and License #) in order to have that information listed.

2: Links to External Websites: If a member wants to list an external website under their name in the Member List section on our RPA website, and that other website describes and promotes activities the member conducts which appear to the public like what a licensed psychologist or licensed mental health provider would do, that member needs to include either a mental health license # or Registered Psychological Assistant # (including the Supervisors name and License #) next to their name on our RPA website as well as on that external website.

3: Registered Psychological Assistants: Members who are Registered Psychological Assistants should not have a link to an external website on our RPA website, unless that external website also identifies the member as a Registered Psychological Assistant, includes their registration number, and includes the name and license # of their Supervisor with the expectation that the supervisor has seen and approved that website.

4: Use of "licensed _____psychologist": In order to avoid misinforming or misleading the public regarding our licensure, any licensed member needs to avoid identifying themselves as a "licensed (clinical or any other specialty) psychologist" or "licensed as a _____psychologist" on either the Membership List section or Find a Psychologist section of our website or on any external website with a link on our RPA website. Members may list a variety of specialties (such as "Clinical Psychologist") as is consistent with their background/training; it is the use of "licensed (specialty)" that is problematic. The Board of Psychology considers the only proper use to be "Licensed Psychologist" for those fully licensed as psychologists.

