



BCASP Practice Guideline for Reporting Title

And course of action for inappropriate use of Title or BCASP number

Spring 2017

Course of Action:

Should it come to the attention of the BCASP Executive that a member is working outside of employment and reporting either title and/or a BCASP number on their reports, the following course of action will be taken:

1. The BCASP member will receive a letter of direction from the Ethics and Professional Practice Chair about the employment criteria for BCASP members. This serves as a warning.
2. If this occurs a second time, the matter will be taken to the executive and the member will be sent a letter by the Membership Secretary under Ethical Principle III.3.3 for conduct unbecoming of a member, and become a member not in good standing.

Guideline:

In order to assess and diagnose students in schools, Certified School Psychologists must be employees (as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency) of a Board of Education constituted under the School Act, or by a Provincial, federal or municipal government or government agency, or by a university as defined by the University Act. According to the Ministry of Education guidelines, when the services of a psychologist are **contracted by a School District**, that person must meet the requirements for registration by the British Columbia College of Psychologists as established in the bylaws under the Health Professions Act.

BCASP recognizes the need for school districts to provide much needed psychological services to schools; however, BCASP members are not eligible to work as a contractor and report title or BCASP number. In these situations it **is an inappropriate use of title and association**.

The title used gives the authority to make a diagnosis or establish whether a student may meet eligibility criteria. Reporting only a BCASP certification number, and not title, can potentially be misleading for a number of reasons, including: individuals with training outside of Psychology when they are reviewing reports to determine eligibility for services; parents trying to access a private assessment for their child; or school districts who cannot hire a Certified School Psychologist or Registered Psychologist on staff and do not understand the difference between



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hiring a Certified School Psychologist as an employee verses a contractee. Again, if a BCASP certification number is provided, but **not title**, that assessment has likely been conducted in a setting, or outside of the employment criteria¹, that is not permitted by the Health Profession Act section 3 (2) (c), and therefore does not meet the criteria for diagnosis by the various Ministries. As such, when assessment services are **contracted** (by a parent, school district or other Ministry agency), the assessor should meet the requirements for registration by the College of Psychologists (CPBC) as established in bylaws under the Health Professions Act. If the assessment is completed by someone who does not meet this criteria, the assessment should **not** be accepted by any Ministry or agency for diagnostic purposes or for eligibility of services. If the assessment will not meet the aforementioned criteria, it is the assessor's responsibility to inform those contracting you the limits of your assessments.

The BCASP Executive does not support BCASP members reporting their certification number without using title of Certified School Psychologist and considers it a violation of:

- Ethical Principle III.1.1; III.1.2: Integrity in Professional Relationships, specifically relating to accurate professional representation, and
- Ethical Principle I.1 Ensuring Informed Consent, specifically School Psychologists accept the rights of parents and involve them in making decisions on behalf of their children; have parents been informed to the limits of the assessment conducted by someone working outside the employment criteria and therefore does not meet the criteria for diagnosis set by various Ministries?

¹ acting in the course of the person's employment as a school psychologist (BCASP) by

- an authority, as that term is defined in section 1 (1) of the Independent School Act,
- a board or a francophone education authority, as those terms are defined in section 1 (1) of the School Act, if qualifications in psychology are a condition of such employment.