

Submitter: Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2016

Dear Board of Professional Therapists and Counselors,
As one of your colleagues who has been engaged in training therapists, and practicing in private practice and mental health agencies, I agree with the new stipulations; they are fair to us and protect the public. Thank you for your work! However, the regulation is not ready yet. I believe that there is a missing item. There should be another provision that addresses those who faced inquiries about ethical and legal violations and who decided to rescind their licenses before going through an investigation. Not naming the individuals, the potential issues, and their decision to let go of their licenses leave the public unprotected from potential harm. While my experience with supervisees' ethical violations is fortunately rare, I experienced a situation in which one of my supervisees gravely hurt an impaired client under state assistance. The person let go of their associate status and never applied for a license but continued to work helping others in need in the non-profit sector in a position of power. The board is responsible for being transparent and offering the public information about potential issues that a consumer can weigh to make decisions.