

Some Ethical Issues faced by Psychologists in Malaysia

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Sample actual cases

1. A student just completed her bachelors degree in Psychology employed by a private firm/company to provide psychological services. She was asked by her employer to use the title Consultant Psychologist

Sample actual cases

2. A private firm using the word “psychology/psychological” in the name of the company, run and owned by unqualified person using titles from non-existing Universities - provide psychological services to individuals and companies. However some psychologists that he employed are qualified.

Sample actual cases

3. People with doctoral degrees in specialties other than psychology allow the media to call quote/label them as “Motivation Specialists”

Sample actual cases

4. A psychologist (non clinical) was referred a client who is depressed. He sees the client but gave up after about three hours listening to the client crying and sobbing. The psychologist does not know what to do.

Sample actual cases

5. A masters student working on a thesis includes the exact names of the cases he sees in the appendix of the thesis.
6. Psychological tests are translated without the permission of the original publishers.
7. Photocopies of psychological tests are included in the appendix of the thesis.

Why?



Ethical Principles

APA guidelines (1992) provide foundation for an understanding of ethical behavior.

Complexity of contemporary clinical practice

Changed over the years to reflect the evolution of our practice

Some basic issues

Qualifications

Membership in Professional
Association

Registration/ Licensing

Continuing Education

Qualifications

Lack of local training for practitioners

Clinical Psychologists

Clinical Neuropsychologists

Counseling Psychologists

Forensic Psychologists

Health Psychologist

Industrial/Organizational Psychologists

Rehabilitation Psychologists

School Psychologists

Sports Psychologists

Membership in Professional Association

If someone needed to see a specialist in psychology, and you did not know of a local specialist, what information would you want to review to insure that he or she is referred to a qualified practitioner?

Membership in Professional Association

- the psychologist's training and internship?
- was the training approved?
- the nature and content of the psychologist's graduate and postdoctoral training?
- what sort of pre-and post-doctoral evaluations did he or she receive?
- what did colleagues in the same specialty think about his/her practice?
- what was the exact status of his or her license or certification?
- were there any prior disciplinary actions, or pending actions?

Membership in Professional Association

- can he review a professional work sample, such as a psychological report.
- wouldn't it be informative to be able to listen to an actual therapy session?
- can you have an opportunity to watch the psychologist examine an actual patient, spend time discussing the case, and ask any questions about the other information you had collected, wouldn't that assure you that you were making the right referral?

Registration/ Licensing

Licensing Board will provide this scrutiny and thus provides the public with well qualified practitioners

Licensing will also indicate the specialty



Continuing Education

Thank you