

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

IN THE MATTER OF JOHN C. SIMONEAUX, PH.D.

NO. P23-24-08C

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter came before the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (“LSBEP” or “Board”), for hearing on February 23-25, 2026, pursuant to written notice, at which time a quorum of the Board was present.

Appearances:

Celia Cangelosi, administrative hearing officer;
Courtney Papale Newton, prosecuting attorney for the Board;
Evelyn Oubre, attorney for Respondent John C. Simoneaux, Ph.D.;
John C. Simoneaux, Ph.D., Respondent;
Matthew Holcomb, Ph.D., Board Chair;
Shawanda Woods-Smith, Psy.D., Board Vice-Chair;
T. Shavaun Sam, Ph.D., Board Member;
Mark Zimmerman, Ph.D., Board Member;
Adrienne Brennan, Ph.D., Board Member;
Amy Groves Lowe, general counsel to the Board.

A. JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction for the hearing is vested pursuant to La. R.S. 23:2359.

B. APPLICABLE LAW

La. R.S. 37:2359(A) provides “A psychologist, a specialist in school psychology, a psychological associate, and anyone under the supervision of a psychologist shall conduct his activities in conformity with ethical and professional standards promulgated by the board pursuant to its current rules and regulations.”

La. R.S. 37:2359(B) provides “The board shall have the power and duty to suspend, place on probation, require remediation for a specified time, revoke any license to practice psychology, any provisional license to practice psychology, any license to practice as a psychological associate, or any license to practice as a specialist in school psychology issued by the board, or take any other action specified in the rules and regulations whenever the board, by affirmative vote of at least four members of a five-member hearing panel, shall find by a preponderance of the evidence that a psychologist, provisional licensed psychologist, provisional licensed psychologist, or specialist in school psychology has engaged in any of the following acts or offenses:

- ...
- (2) Practicing psychology in such a manner as to endanger the welfare of clients or patients, including but not limited to:
 - ...
 - (c) Gross malpractice, repeated malpractice or gross negligence in the practice of psychology.
 - ...
- (12) Violation of the code of conduct of ethics adopted in the rules and regulations of the board of other immoral, unprofessional, or dishonorable conduct as defined in the rules and regulations of the board.
- ...
- (14) Violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter or of the rules and regulations promulgated by the board thereunder.

La. Title 46 Part LXIII Section 1305 on Competence provides as follows:

- (A) Boundaries of Competence
 1. Psychologists provide services, teach and conduct research with population and in areas only within the boundaries of their competence, based on their education, training, supervised experience, consultation, study or professional experience.

LAC Title 46 Part LXIII Section 1307 on Human Relations provides as follows:

- (D) Avoiding Harm. Psychologists take reasonable steps to avoid harming their clients/patients, students, supervisees, research participants, organizational clients and others with whom they work, and to minimize harm where it is foreseeable and unavoidable.

LAC Title 46 Part LXIII Section 1311 on Advertising and Other Public Statements provides as follows:

- (A) Avoidance of False or Deceptive Statements
 3. Psychologists do not make false, deceptive or fraudulent statements concerning:
 - a. their training, experience or competence;
 - b. their academic degrees;
 - c. their credentials;
 - d. their institutional or association affiliations;
 - e. their services;
 - f. the scientific or clinical basis for or results or degree of success of, their services;
 - g. their fees; or
 - h. their publications or research findings.

LAC Title 46 Part LXIII Section 1319 on Assessment provides as follows:

- (A) Bases for Assessments

1. Psychologists base the opinions contained in their recommendations, reports and diagnostic or evaluative statements, including forensic testimony, on information and techniques sufficient to substantiate their findings.

C. FINDINGS

1. Respondent was awarded a license to practice psychology, license no. 442, by the LSBEP on January 14, 1984.
2. On April 22, 2024, the Board received a Request for Investigation containing allegations of multiple ethical violations related to Respondent's practice of psychology.
3. A Committee was formed which included Complaints Coordinator Laura Brown, Ph.D., Investigating Board Member Shannae Harness, Ph.D., Board Investigator Henry Richardson, and Executive Counsel/Prosecuting Attorney, Courtney Papale Newton.
4. Following formal notice and an opportunity for response, a confidential investigation was conducted which revealed the following:
5. Respondent is a licensed psychologist, practicing in the area of forensics, who, by order of the Court, evaluates and reports on matters pertaining to child custody.
6. On April 12, 2023, Respondent was ordered by the 14th Judicial District Court, Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana, to evaluate B.D.A. and L.R.M. and to provide his expert opinion with regard to custody and best interest of the minor children.
7. The evaluations of B.D.A. (hereinafter "Father") and L.R.M. (hereinafter "Mother") were conducted on September 5, 2023, and November 21, 2023, respectively.
8. Respondent dictated the psychological evaluation reports on September 8, 2023 (Father) and November 27, 2024 (Mother).
9. Respondent's dictation resulting in Mother's evaluation report was typed on November 28, 2023.
10. On or about November 21, 2023, the Court issued a subpoena ordering Respondent to appear and testify on November 29, 2023.
11. At a pretrial conference prior to the hearing involving lawyers, litigants, Respondent and the Judge, the parties came to agreement on matters pertaining to custody, and a joint stipulation was entered and read into the court record.

12. Thereafter, the Respondent transmitted his reports concerning L.M. and B.A. on or about December 4 or 5, 2023.
13. The final evaluation report for Mother states: “This evaluation has been dictated by [the time of the stipulation], but the report has not yet been returned by my typist and/or edited. This report does not include a narration of the final stipulation.” Respondent was not privy to the agreement and could not write the contents of the agreement in his report as he did not have knowledge of the specifics of the agreement.
14. In the evaluation reports:
 - a. Respondent details an exchange with Mother in which he responds to her allegations of Father’s physical abuse of minor child and alleged domestic violence/sexual abuse of Mother by challenging her about leaving her children in the care of a rapist;
 - b. Respondent uses language referencing Autism Spectrum Disorder and states multiple times that he does not see where the child has been properly evaluated.
15. The style/form of additional evaluation reports submitted by the Respondent are written in the same style/form as the B.D.A. and L.R.M.
16. In performing custody evaluations, Dr. Simoneaux failed to observe parent-child interactions when children were unable to participate in an interview due to age or ability.

D. DECISION

The purpose of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists is to regulate the practice of psychology in the State of Louisiana. The Board is charged with maintaining standards of professional conduct and enforcing the laws and rules and regulations pertaining to it and imposing sanctions, including suspension, revocation, probation or other restrictions when it finds by a preponderance of evidence that a psychologist has violated the rules and regulations as outlined in La. R.S. 37:2359. It is the duty of the Board to protect the public.

Considering the law, pleadings, evidence and arguments of counsel, and for the reasons set forth above, Respondent did not violate La. R.S. 37:2359 or LAC Title 46 Part LXIII.

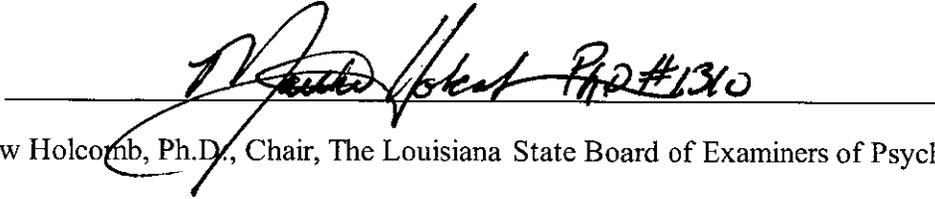
IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that:

The Complaint numbered P23-24-08C shall be dismissed.

E. APPEAL RIGHTS

The Board's decision shall become final unless the Respondent files a written motion for rehearing, reopening or reconsideration by the Board within ten days from service of this decision in conformity with LAC 46:LVII.925, or files a petition for judicial review within thirty days of the issuance of this order, in conformity with La. R.S. 49:964 et seq.

Signed this 26th day of February, 2026, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Holcomb', is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the alphanumeric string 'PRO#1310' is handwritten.

Matthew Holcomb, Ph.D., Chair, The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists