



February 13, 2005

Laura Parchman
JCDHR
P.O. Box 11926
Birmingham, AL 35202-1926

Dear Ms. Parchman:

Gilbert Robbins, III, a Licensed Professional Counselor in Birmingham and member of the American Counseling Association, the world's largest professional counseling organization with 45,000 members, has asked me to clarify the training of professional counselors in assessment and I am glad to do so.

Licensed Professional Counselors have a master's or doctoral degree in counseling, and our graduate program accrediting guidelines mandate coursework in assessment. Specifically, graduate counseling programs must, "provide an understanding of individual and group approaches to assessment and evaluation including: basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized testing and other assessment techniques including norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessment, environmental assessment, performance assessment, individual and group test and inventory methods, behavioral observations, and computer managed and computer assisted methods."

The training of Licensed Professional counselors in assessment is acknowledged in the Alabama licensing law. Chapter 255-X-3-.01 of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling Administrative code states in part 2 (training) section b7 (Appraisal of Individuals): Individual studies that provide a broad understanding of group and individual educational and psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal; data and information gathering methods; validity and reliability; psychometric statistics; factors influencing appraisals; and use of appraisal results in helping process.

In recognition of this training, appraisal activities are included in the scope of practice for Alabama Licensed Professionals (see 255-X-2-.01) with only projective personality testing excluded.

In recognition of his training and skill in forensic evaluation, Mr. Robbins has passed the examination process to become a credentialed Forensic Psychological Evaluator through The National Board of Forensic Evaluators. The American Counseling Association has endorsed the FPE credential as rigorous and valid. This credential provides evidence that

Mr. Robbins has developed his assessment and evaluation skills in forensic and psychological evaluation.

Based on the facts that:

- Licensed Professional Counselors receive a through grounding in psychometrics, assessment and testing during their graduate coursework, as attested to in the Alabama LPC licensing law
- Appraisal and assessment activities (with the exception of projective personality testing) are in the scope of practice for Licensed Professional Counselors in the Alabama licensing law
- Mr. Robbins has earned the rigorous Forensic Psychological Evaluator credential, indicating his expertise in psychological evaluations

The American Counseling Association supports Mr. Gilbert Robbins III competence and licensing scope of practice to provide psychological evaluations that do not utilize projective personality tests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DKL', is written above the typed name.

David Kaplan, PhD
Chief Professional Officer