

# Legal and Ethical Risks and Risk Management in Professional Psychological Practice

Sequence II: Risk Management in Specific High Risk Areas

May 1, 2010 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. (Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)

OU Health Sciences Center

Robert M. Bird Library – Auditorium

**Six Continuing  
Education Credits**

**15% Discount for  
Psychologists  
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OPA is approved by the American  
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continuing education credits for  
psychologists. OPA maintains  
responsibility for the program.

## **PRESENTED BY:**

**Eric Harris, Ed.D., J.D.**

Eric A. Harris, Ed.D., J.D., a member of the Massachusetts Bar since 1970, received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1969 and his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and Public Practice from Harvard

University in 1978. In addition to his part time private clinical practice since 1982, Dr. Harris has served as a consultant to the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Division of the APA Practice Directorate and was Legal Counsel for Choate Health Management. He is a faculty member at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Harris has served as a member of the APA's Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP), the Committee on Legal Issues (COLI), the Board of Directors Task Force on Child Issues, and as Treasurer of Division 31. Dr. Harris served as the Director of Professional Affairs for the Massachusetts Psychological Association for 10 years.



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Those who attend the workshop and complete the APAIT evaluation form will receive six continuing education credits. Please note that APA CE rules require that we only give credit to those who attend the entire workshop. Those arriving more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time or leaving before the workshop is completed will not receive CE credits and will not be eligible for the 15% premium discount described elsewhere in this brochure.

## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

For the last ten years, there has been a major increase in the number of lawsuits, licensing board complaints, and ethics committee complaints against clinical psychologists. As managed care continues to dominate third party reimbursement in both the private and public sectors, any adverse disciplinary event can make it difficult, if not impossible to meet credentialing requirements. The changes in the economic system have led to changes in therapeutic approaches and business organizations that, in turn, have increased the complexity of the legal and regulatory environment. In these difficult times, a risk management strategy is an essential element of professional practice.

After providing a basic introduction to identifying legal and ethical risks involved in working with high risk patients and situations, this workshop will focus on three

specialized areas of practice: working with couples and families, involvement with lawyers and the legal system, and working with potentially suicidal clients.

The primary workshop goal is to allow practitioners to identify legal and ethical problems in these areas so that risks of lawsuits and disciplinary complaints can be minimized. Dr. Harris will suggest strategies which will make it more likely that a psychologist will prevail if she/he is fortunate enough to be the target of these sometimes unavoidable events. The program will describe how and when practitioners can utilize the Trust Advocate 800 Risk Management Consultation Service as part of their own risk management strategies.

The workshop is primarily directed to psychologists in private practice but it is applicable to all sites where health services are provided.

### OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Learn basic strategies for identifying high risk situations and managing professional practice risks.
- ✓ Learn how to manage interactions with lawyers and the legal system, including responding to subpoenas and other information requests, providing testimony at depositions and in court, and using strategies for interacting with attorneys.
- ✓ Learn about managing potential conflicts in conjoint treatment with couples and families, with particular emphasis on the special risks associated with divorce.
- ✓ Learn essential risk management strategies for identifying and managing outpatient suicide risk.
- ✓ Learn ethical and legal standards governing these areas of practice.

## REGISTRATION FORM

Legal and Ethical Risks and Risk Management in Professional Psychological Practice, Sequence II:  
Risk Management Strategies in High Risk Areas

Name/Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

OK Psychologist License#: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### FEES:

- \$99 for OPA Members if postmarked by April 24
- \$120 for OPA Members after April 24 or on-site
- \$170 for non OPA Members by April 24
- \$185 for non OPA Members by April 24 or on-site
- \$25 for doctoral students/psychology interns

**\*NON MEMBERS:** Add \$40 to your registration and it will include OPA membership for the remainder of 2010!

**\*STUDENTS:** Add \$10 for Student Membership for 2010!

No refunds will be offered for this workshop. Grievances about the workshop may be addressed to the American Psychological Association.

## PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Make checks payable to: OPA

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed    Check    MC    VISA

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send registration form and payment to:**

OPA \* 6412 N. Santa Fe Ste. C \* Oklahoma City, OK 73116

FAX: 405/879-0304 PHONE: 405/879-0069

## REGISTRATION

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Robert M. Bird Library Foyer located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The workshop begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

## DIRECTIONS/PARKING

You may park in Lot J South of the Library. For a map of the campus and directions, please log onto:

[http://library.ouhsc.edu/HP\\_Home.cfm?where=Site\\_Content/HomePage/HP\\_Directions.cfm](http://library.ouhsc.edu/HP_Home.cfm?where=Site_Content/HomePage/HP_Directions.cfm)