

## NO Reply

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**From:** Becky Fields <beckyfields@ec.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 4, 2019 10:51 PM  
**To:** NO Reply  
**Subject:** LPA supervision

N.C. Psychology Board Members,

As you consider the question of discontinuing lifetime supervision for LPAs, I would simply ask that you contemplate the effect of the long-standing supervision requirement on LPAs such as myself.

I earned my Master's degree from Wake Forest University in 1975 and immediately began working in the field upon passing my licensure exam. That means I have been required to obtain supervision for 44 years (often at my own expense and otherwise at my employer's expense).

At this point — due to our lack of independence and the cost to employers of providing supervision — LPAs are considered undesirable employees. We also often cannot even qualify for positions which are, instead, filled by (in my opinion, less qualified/less experienced) LPCs, LCSWs, LMFTs, etc. After 44 years of experience in a major medical center, a psychiatric hospital, several private practices, two developmental evaluation centers, three residential treatment programs, and several consulting positions, this “less-than-adequate mental health professional” is the position I continue to be forced to occupy.

Please allow me (and other LPAs in NC) to finish our careers as respected, independent mental health professionals and assure that psychology continues to be viewed as a valuable discipline in all mental health service delivery settings.

Thank you,

Becky J. Fields, MA, LPA(#461), HSP-PA