State of Idaho
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Board of Psychologist Examiners

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2026 Board of Psychologist Examiners Annual Update

In this annual update, the Board shares important topics impacting practice, highlights available programs and tools, and provides an overview of recent legislative updates. These efforts are intended to help keep licensees informed and support safe, effective practice.

AI in Psychology

At its meeting on July 15, 2026, the Board discussed the use of artificial intelligence (AI) as it relates to the practice of psychology. Under the Idaho standard of care framework, clinicians are permitted to innovate rather than seek regulatory approval for new technologies, provided they exercise appropriate professional judgment. The Board emphasized that licensees who choose to utilize AI remain fully responsible for all care rendered patients and that any AI-assisted services are accurate, valid, and compliant with HIPAA requirements.

Health Professionals Recovery Program (HPRP)

Addiction and mental health struggles do not discriminate. They may affect anyone, including even the most dedicated and high-achieving professionals. Research shows that punishment does not stop addiction; rather, individualized and supportive care is more effective. That is exactly what the HPRP program offers: a confidential path forward that protects a practitioners' well-being, career, and future.

Is it time for help? Ask:

- Are you feeling overwhelmed, burned out, or like you're not yourself?
- Is someone you care about in the medical field showing signs of struggle?
- Do you want to regain a sense of peace, purpose, and control?

Don't hit rock bottom before seeking help. Take the first step towards a better, healthier life! Many others have successfully walked this path, and many are walking it now. You don't have to hit rock bottom to get help. You just have to take the first step. Many have walked this path before you and found a better, healthier life on the other side. For more information, contact Tabitha Edwards at (208) 817-6189 or Tabitha.Edwards@dopl.idaho.gov. All communications remain confidential.

How to Search for Licensees

Due to the shortage of behavioral healthcare providers, licensees may wish to identify providers in their area for referral or collaborative purposes. Follow the steps below to generate a list of licensees:

1. Navigate to dopl.idaho.gov and click on "Search for a License or Registration."
2. This will open DOPL's Online Services portal. Under "Public Searches," click on "Search for a Bulk List of Licenses." Under the "Board" section, select "Board of Psychologist Examiners."
3. Users can then search using any other available filters, such as original issue date or city. Please note that location-based searches will only yield results for licensees that have voluntarily disclosed their public address.
4. All search results can be exported to a spreadsheet, if desired.

Legislative Session Update

Disclaimer: The Board does not take any position on any law, advocate for or against any law, or represent any individual practitioner. This information is provided to raise awareness with licensees as it may impact their profession. It is not legal advice. Rather, this is a general overview, and practitioners should refer to independent legal counsel with practice-specific questions. This list is not exhaustive, and practitioners are still responsible for familiarizing themselves with and complying with all laws and regulations applicable to the profession and obtaining independent legal counsel as needed.

HB 703: Universal Discipline

This bill, codified at Idaho Code § 67-2616, simplifies and removes repetitive or inconsistent language from the practice acts of professions regulated by boards, committees, or commissions housed within the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses. Changes to the practice act for psychologist examiners include:

- Standardizing authority to hold hearings, engage in discovery, or seek an injunction
- Clarifying the Board's role in reviewing investigations

In addition to the grounds for discipline provided by the practice act, HB 703 creates a baseline set of discipline tools for all Boards and defines DOPL's role and responsibilities throughout the disciplinary process. This new "toolkit" includes the abilities to:

- Refuse to renew or reinstate a license
- Revoke or suspend a license
- Place conditions upon a license
- Require rehabilitation, education, or training
- Hold hearings, subpoena witnesses and documents, file complaints, and seek injunctions

- Assess costs and attorney fees
- Issue a public reprimand
- Impose up to $1,000 administrative fine for each violation of state law

HB 777: Uniform Controlled Substances Act

This legislation, effective July 1, 2026, updated Idaho's Uniform Controlled Substances Act to align with recent federal scheduling actions, including the addition of thirteen (13) substances. Each scheduling decision was independently reviewed by the Idaho Board of Pharmacy and made according to the risk associated with the drug's prescriptive use. All prescribers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these changes.

Schedule	Category	Count
I	Fentanyl Derivatives (Opiates)	9
I	Benzodiazepines	1
I	Synthetic Stimulants (Bath Salts)	1
II	Opiate Derivatives	2

HB 822: The Pediatric Secretive Transactions Parental Rights Act

HB822 amends the Domestic Relations, Parent and Child laws, and went into effect on July 1, 2026, and is codified at Idaho Code § 32-1016. First, the law recognizes parents' fundamental right to raise their children and make medical decisions for them. Second, the law finds there is a potential for harm to a child from medical and social sex transitions. Third, part of parental control includes knowledge of a child's efforts to transition and ability to deny such transition. The law encompasses both social and medical procedure transitions.

The definition section provides that "social transition" is "the process by which an individual goes from identifying with and living as a gender that corresponds to the individual's sex to identifying with and living as a gender different from the individual's sex and may involve social, legal, or physical changes, including adopting a name, pronouns, appearance, or dress that does not correspond to the individual's sex." The law requires informed consent from a child's parents or guardians before facilitating a transition. The law applies to covered entities, which include medical, behavioral, and mental health care providers. The new law specifically prohibits a covered entity from withholding information from a child's parent or guardian related to a "child's expressed interest in or desire for sex transition procedures."

The new law requires covered entities, i.e., health care providers, to notify parents within 72 hours of a child's request to transition. Covered entities must obtain written consent before aiding or abetting transition efforts. There are penalties for violating the new law which permits damages, recovery of attorney's fees, and the attorney general may additionally seek a civil penalty up to $100,000. The attorney general can also refer a covered entity that has violated this law for professional discipline.

HB 491: Emergency Mental Health First Aid

This bill extends immunity from civil damage claims to individuals who provide emergency psychological attention, including responding to suicidal thoughts, so long as they are acting in good faith and without compensation. It amends Idaho Code § 5-330, commonly referred to as the "Good Samaritan" law, which also provides protections for those who administer emergency first aid or medical attention.