

State Board of Psychology of Ohio:
Ethics in Government and Vendor Selection Process Overview

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In compliance with Governor Ted Strickland's Executive Order 2007-01S regarding ethics requirements (Paragraph 3b) and with DAS Directive 06-21 recommends obtaining and documenting at least 3 verbal quotes for all purchases over \$500. From EO 2007-01S:

3. Vendor and Grantee Ethics. Those who have contracts with the State or who get grants from the State should also play a role in making sure that State officers and employees follow the law and this order. Accordingly:

b. Whenever any Cabinet agency or State of Ohio board or commission awards any contract without a competitive bid for the products or services provided by that contract, the reason the contract was awarded without bids must be stated in writing by the agency, board or commission in a document that is available to the public.

In addition, DAS Directive 06-21 recommends obtaining and documenting at least 3 verbal quotes for all purchases over \$500.

1) The Board complies with DAS Directive 06-21 by endeavoring to seek and document at least 2 bids for purchases less than \$500 and 3 bids for purchases above \$500. Circumstances may lead to this goal to be relaxed, including efforts to meet the Board's goals to support the MBE and Edge programs.

Exceptions: As a regulatory board charged with protecting the public, the Board periodically requires the opinions of psychological experts to inform investigations and legal processes involving psychologists alleged to have engaged in professional misconduct. Presenting evidence of misconduct at a hearing typically requires at least one expert opinion for the legal record. As such, when an expert opinion is needed in a specific area of professional psychology, the "product" sought is not of a nature that lends itself to a competitive bidding process. Instead, knowledge of specific psychological subject matter, professional standards, and scientific literature is the paramount consideration given when seeking opinions about misconduct. This extends to policy-making If the Board, including the composition of committees and work groups charged with advising the Board on professional policy and rules. Experts are sought due to their (frequently very narrow) expertise and cannot be selected based on a competitive bidding process.

2) All contracts for expert services are limited to a reasonable number of hours estimated to be required to complete a given review of files and rendering of opinions. Experts retained by the Board are limited to receiving \$150/hour, while a standard hourly rate in the private sector can rise to \$250-\$275/hour.