



Oregon
Psychological
Association

Oregon Psychological Association Listserv Rules and Guidelines-----

As of December 2012

The purpose of the OPA general listserv is to serve as a tool for OPA members to communicate about OPA events and activities, and issues related to psychology. The listserv is a way for members to network about issues related to the profession of psychology. The listserv is not intended for use as a personal public forum or for advertising purposes. The intention of the board of directors in setting these rules are: to comply with federal and state laws, to stay consistent with our mission, and to maintain fiduciary responsibility to the Association.

Please remember that all postings and replies back through the listserv are disseminated to everyone currently subscribed to the listserv. Responses may be made to individual members “backchannel” by using the member’s personal e-mail address, which is normally embedded in the sender address at the heading of the message.

Participation on the listserv is a privilege, not a right. Participants must be professional and respectful when using the listserv. Participants may be removed from the listserv under certain circumstances. The executive director and president are responsible for the enforcement of list policies.

The resources (hardware, software, and technical assistance) for this listserv are provided without charge by the American Psychological Association as a service.

If you subscribed to this listserv and if you send messages to the listserv, you are agreeing to the following rules.

The rules are:

Rule 1: Postings should pertain to psychology and psychological issues.

Rule 2: All listserv postings should be in compliance with United States and Oregon laws, including laws pertaining to criminal and civil law; antitrust law, copyright, business practices, election laws; laws pertaining to the practice of psychology; and to the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. Some discussions are prohibited under antitrust laws. For example, discussing reimbursement rates of specific health plans, or advocating that listserv members not do business with specific health

plans should be avoided. Such discussions run the risk of violating the "price-fixing" or "group boycott" portions of the antitrust laws.

Rule 3: Do not intentionally interfere with or disrupt other listserv members, network services, or network equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, distribution of advertisements or chain letters, propagation of computer worms and viruses, and use of the network to make unauthorized entry to any other machine accessible via the listserv.

Rule 4: This listserv is not intended for advertising or commercial purposes. Exceptions (and therefore permissible postings) to this rule are referral requests, introductions of members new to the community or listserv, job or employment position announcements, office space requests or listings, and book recommendations in response to a request for such a recommendation. Postings for patient groups can be made within these guidelines: postings can only be made by OPA members and not on behalf of nonmembers for the posting of new groups for one time; and if you have an ongoing group with an opening, you may post that opening one time. Examples of prohibited communications include postings for other products or services, workshops/conferences/events, vacation rentals, book sales, or solicitations of listserv members to purchase products or services or for registration for events. Because this listserv is APA/OPA sponsored, OPA event/activity postings are acceptable on the listserv.

OPA members may post IRB-approved research participation requests if the member is on the research team. The announcement should include both a disclosure of the member's role (e.g., "principal investigator") and a statement that IRB approval has been obtained. Nonmembers or members assisting nonmembers (such as their colleagues, students, or members of other listservs) must send research participation requests to OPA. Generally speaking, only IRB-approved research participation requests will be considered for posting. Review of nonmember requests will be performed by the association's executive director, president, or other board members as needed to evaluate the request.

Rule 5: As noted in the introduction to the rules and guidelines, this email listserv is provided without charge by APA as a service. Our professional ethical code of conduct must be maintained in discussing the sensitive issues of religion and politics on the listserv. A professionally scientific, educative or clinical perspective must be maintained when these topics are raised on the listserv.

Rule 6: You are required to comply with all relevant federal Internal Revenue Service and Federal Election Committee laws, regulations, guidelines, and procedures, and engage only in legally appropriate communications regarding political activity. For example, this list can be used to openly discuss political advocacy activities generally; however, this list cannot be used to advocate for a particular candidate or to raise money for a particular candidate or Political Action Committee (PAC) in federal, state, or local elections. Discussion of professional politics (APA, OPA) is acceptable under this Rule.

What is permitted in terms of advocacy: providing factual information about a PAC; providing information about the amount of money the PAC has raised, and from whom; and providing factual information about which candidates have been supported by the PAC. What is not permitted in terms of advocacy: any straightforward request for financial contributions to a candidate or PAC; and providing information about a candidate or PAC if it publicizes the candidate or PAC in a way that encourages contributions to the candidate or PAC or provides information on how to contribute to the candidate or PAC; or encourages financial support for the candidate or PAC.

Rule 7: Listserv postings shall not contain confidential information that might allow an individual client to be identified. Since comments made via email can be preserved and used in a variety of ways by anyone with access to the listserv, caution is warranted. Therefore, use of the listserv for giving or receiving consultation may have clinical, ethical and legal consequences for the writer and/or subject(s) of the consultation. Consultative information gained on the listserv is intended only as a means of general information gathering. Consultation on a specific case may be better served by a more in-depth, comprehensive and confidential consultation with colleagues in person, with OPA's legal counsel, with the OPA Ethics Committee, Diversity Committee, Colleague Assistance Committee or other appropriate sources of formal consultation.

Rule 8: All listserv postings should be professional and respectful. Persons who engage in unprofessional or disrespectful postings on the listserv may be removed from the listserv. Such conduct and behavior includes, but is not limited, to derogatory remarks, insults, threats, inflammatory speech, discriminatory comments, arguing, incessant posts, putting colleagues down, bullying, obscenities, rudeness, demands, sarcasm, blanket statements, flaming (hostile, aggressive, intimidating, insulting or offensive posts), or any other behavior or conduct deemed unacceptable by OPA.

If you violate these rules then you may be sent a warning notice from the listserv administrator about the violation. Depending on the circumstances, the listserv administrator may also unsubscribe you from the listserv immediately **for 30 days or longer** because these rules govern the very heart of our arrangements with our service provider. Individuals who have been unsubscribed may request reinstatement after elapse of the time period specified. Repeat offenders or egregious offenders may be unsubscribed permanently. Individuals who have been permanently unsubscribed may request reinstatement *in writing* after a period of one year.

In order to minimize unnecessary clutter, listserv participants are encouraged to send personal messages backchannel, directly to individual recipient(s).