

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 04-26

(Practice by Mental Health Commission members)

WHEREAS, the Commission on Mental Health includes eight (8) psychiatrists or qualified psychologists appointed by the Superior Court, pursuant to D.C. Code § 21-502; and

WHEREAS, the Commission of Mental Health doctors serve on a part-time basis, are rotated by assignment of the Chief Judge of the Court, so that at any one time the Commission shall consist of the Chairman and two psychiatrist or qualified psychologist members, and are explicitly permitted by statute to practice their profession during their tenure of office, excluding cases of persons in which they have rendered professional service or advice, D.C. Code § 21-502; and

WHEREAS, it is important to the efficient operation of the Commission on Mental Health for the Court to provide definitive guidance on the ability of Commission psychiatrists and qualified psychologists to provide contract services to the Department of Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, the Commission doctors are a valuable resource for the public mental health system and their experiences and expertise are enriched by their work for the Department of Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, the current changes in the public mental health system call for an increased reliance on private providers for services;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby,

ORDERED, that psychiatrists and qualified psychologists appointed by the Superior Court to serve as members of the Commission on Mental Health may provide contract services in the nature of evaluations and consultations, but not treatment services, to the Department of Mental Health, provided the earnings from such services do not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the doctor's annual income.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

December 14, 2004

Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III

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