



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

**Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners**  
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## **Attention Licensed Psychologist Associates:**

According to the Oregon Office of Degree Authorization\*, the use of the abbreviation "PsyA", in any form, is not an acceptable designation for licensed psychologist associates because it does not represent an academic degree. A recent opinion issued by an administrative law judge found that "PsyA" is not a recognized abbreviation in the field of psychology, either as an academic degree or professional license designation, and that the use of these initials is false and misleading to the public and constitutes immoral and unprofessional conduct.

We realize that most of you know this. But for any licensed psychologist associate who has recently started using "PsyA" or is thinking of doing so, please be aware that this could result in a complaint filed against you. The official designation for a licensed psychologist associate is: Your name, the initials of your academic degree(s), followed by the full spelling of "licensed psychologist associate" or "psychologist associate":

**Jane Doe, MA, Licensed Psychologist Associate**

or

**John Doe, MS  
Psychologist Associate**

An administrative rulemaking was filed on January 21, 2015 to clarify appropriate designation of education and licensure status for psychologists and psychologist associates. Pursuant to OAR 858-010-0062, psychologist associates licensed under ORS 675.065 may only designate their academic degree using appropriate initials including "M.A." or "M.S." as awarded by the degree-granting institution. Licensure status may only be designated as "psychologist associate."

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\* The Office of Degree Authorization is required by statute to provide for the protection of the citizens of Oregon by ensuring the quality of higher education and preserving the integrity of an academic degree as a public credential. ODA administers laws, standards, and services that protect students, holders of legitimately earned degrees, institutions, businesses, employers, patients or clients, and licensing boards.