



*The Delaware Psychological Association  
presents:*

***HIPPA, Encryption, and the  
Thorny, Not-Always-Clear  
Regulations Around Email  
and Texting***

*Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 12PM-1PM  
Virtual Zoom Webinar*

*Presented by Susan C. Litton, Ph.D.  
1 CE Ethics Credit*

Register at [depsych.org](http://depsych.org)

# PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

If you work for an agency, you've likely been drilled on exactly what steps you need to take in your particular job to help assure your organization is HIPAA-compliant. However, it's a bit harder for those in private practice, who are responsible for all aspects of HIPAA-compliance – even if they are solo practitioners and have no one working for or with them. In the beginning, some solo or group practitioners decided to try to avoid HIPAA altogether by not doing things that would make them Covered Entities (primarily avoiding filing any insurance claims electronically.) However, partly as a result of the increased usage of digital tools that resulted from COVID, that's less likely to be possible today. This workshop will explain why. We'll also cover a relatively easy, reasonably straightforward way to accomplish most tasks required by HIPAA. Yes, there's still a bit of work involved, but if you have a set of guidelines to point the way, it can help immensely. We'll discuss how EHRs can help with that – although our guidelines for how to become HIPAA compliant will also work for paper-pencil practitioners. We'll also cover BAAs (Business Associate Agreements) and why they really ARE worth having. Finally, the topics of using both email and texting with patients are SO complex – and often, seemingly contradictory, that we'll go into that with a fine-toothed comb. You'll leave knowing what to do – and perhaps more importantly, what NOT to do with those modes of communication.

# WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this workshop, you will be able to:

1. Participants will be able to name two reasons why a psychologist might be a Covered Entity – even if they are strictly private pay and have never filed an electronic insurance claim.
2. Participants will be able to list two main things BAAs do that are important for clinicians.
3. Participants will be able to list the inherent problem with email products that use only TLS encryption and to provide two examples of types of email products that are considered to be 100% end-to-end encrypted.
4. Participants will be able to explain the difference between asking patients to sign a release for non-encrypted email vs. adhering to their wishes should they ask you to send non-encrypted email.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

The DPA plans and promotes programs serving the continuing educational needs of psychologists and professionals across a variety of disciplines. Through the provision of high-quality programming, the DPA hopes to support psychologists and other mental health professionals in their commitment to provide ethical, culturally sensitive and competent services to our community.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Susan C. Litton, Ph.D. holds degrees in both mental health and IT and is actively engaged with careers in both. In mental health, Dr. Litton has been a clinical psychologist in private practice in Atlanta, GA since 1985. In IT, she's the creator and driving force behind the PSYBooks EHR & Portal ([www.psybooks.com](http://www.psybooks.com)), an online practice management system (EHR) for mental health professionals. Dr. Litton is also a charter member of the Coalition for Technology in Behavioral Science (CTiBS) and served for a while as a representative to the HL7 CBCC Workgroup, which is tasked with, among other things, developing international standards for EHRs.



*Susan C. Litton, Ph.D.*

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## DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Some EHRs use forced-choice formats that can be invalidating to individuals belonging to non-dominant groups. A common problem is around gender identity in that some EHRs don't ask about gender at all, and for "sex" only offer a forced choice, i.e., male or female, since that's what's required by insurance companies. Lau et al (2020) have discussed this issue in terms of the lack of precise and inclusive language for gender, sex and sexual orientation (GSSO).

The "forced choice" format of some EHRs can also create problems when asking questions about race and/or cultural heritage. We will discuss this and any other issues that some EHRs may pose for non-dominant groups as well as possible ways to alleviate the issues.

## PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

***"HIPPA, Encryption, and the Thorny, Not-Always-Clear Regulations Around Email and Texting"*** sponsored by the Delaware Psychological Association, has been approved for 1 Ethics CE credit. The Delaware Psychological Association is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Delaware Psychological Association maintains responsibility for this program and its contents.

## REGISTRATION

Please register online at [depsych.org](https://depsych.org). If you have registration questions, please email [delpsihology@gmail.com](mailto:delpsihology@gmail.com) or call us at 302-475-1574.

### Registration Fees:

DPA Members	\$25 (Optional \$25 Donation)*
Non-Members	\$35 (Optional \$25 Donation)*
Students	\$15

Register at [depsych.org](https://depsych.org)

\*If you would like to make a \$25 donation to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Psychology Scholarship Fund, you can do so upon registration on our website at [depsych.org](https://depsych.org).

The DPA recognizes the study and practice of psychology exists within a majority culture that does not afford equitable access and opportunity to all and is striving to actively dismantle policies and processes that oppress individuals and groups. In our effort to shift systemic inequalities and foster inclusion and equality, we are starting a fund that will provide yearly grant awards to students and professionals of color at the secondary, undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral levels as well as established professionals and career changers. Awards may be used for a variety of pursuits, that may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conference fees and travel.
- Clinical consultation support.
- Research support.
- Dissertation consultation support.
- Professional licensure test fees (EPPP, ABPP).
- Test prep materials (GRE, EPPP).
- Other.

We are accepting EDI Scholarship Applications for the Spring of 2022.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations received by June 15, 2022, will be refunded in full. No refunds will be granted after June 15, 2022.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

THOSE WHO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP AND COMPLETE THE APA EVALUATION FORM WILL RECEIVE ONE ETHICS CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS. PLEASE NOTE THAT APA CE RULES REQUIRE THAT WE ONLY GIVE CREDIT TO THOSE WHO ATTEND THE ENTIRE WORKSHOP. THOSE SIGNING IN TO THIS WEBINAR MORE THAN 15 MINUTES AFTER THE SCHEDULED START TIME OR SIGNING OFF BEFORE THE WORKSHOP IS COMPLETED WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CE CREDIT.

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