



FLORIDA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OPPOSES BLOCK ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY CHANGE EFFORTS

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The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected a rehearing request, which upholds the decision of a three-judge panel of the court in 2020 that ruled bans on sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts (SOGICE) violated the First Amendment. The use of SOGICE are more than controversial, they are dangerous, abusive, and psychologically harmful. These efforts are not therapeutic and should not be referred to as "conversion or reparative therapy." The American Psychological Association (APA) issued two separate resolutions for [sexual orientation change efforts](#) (SOCE) and [gender identity change efforts](#) (GICE) in February 2021. The resolutions addressed the harm in these practices and indicate the APA opposes SOGICE because such efforts create vulnerability for significant risk of harm to sexual and gender minorities and encourages clinicians, organizations and families to avoid practicing SOCE/GICE (APA, 2021). According to the Williams Institute (2021), 58.8% of the 1,747 participants in a study from 2016-2018 were under the age of 18 when they were subjected to SOGICE. Another study estimates nearly 700,000 LGBTQ adults were subjected to SOGICE in their lifetime (Williams Institute, 2019).

The Florida Psychological Association stands united with the APA, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists, American College of Physicians, American Counseling Association, American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, American School Counselor Association, National Association of Social Workers, World Professional Association for Transgender Health, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Nursing, American Medical Student Association, American Psychoanalytic Association, Association of LGBTQ Psychiatrists, Society for Affectional, Intersex and Gender Expansive Identified, GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality, and many other organizations to express grave concerns about the risk of long-lasting and irreparable harm from SOGICE.

References:

- American Psychological Association. (2021). *APA resolution on gender identity change efforts*. <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/resolution-gender-identity-change-efforts.pdf>
- American Psychological Association. (2021). *APA resolution on sexual orientation change efforts*. <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/resolution-sexual-orientation-change-efforts.pdf>
- Williams Institute. (2021). *LGBTQ people in the US: Select findings from the Generations and TransPop Studies*. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Generations-TransPop-Toplines-Jun-2021.pdf>
- Williams Institute (2019). *Conversion therapy and LGBT youth update*. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Conversion-Therapy-Update-Jun-2019.pdf>

