
GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

No. R. 263

6 April 2010

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO. 56 OF 1974)

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF PRACTITIONERS OF THE PROFESSION OF PSYCHOLOGY

The Minister of Health intends, under section 61(1) read with section 33 of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974) and after consultation with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, to amend the regulations published under Government Notice No. R.993 of 16 September 2008 as reflected in the schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations in writing on the proposed amendments to the Director-General: Health, Private Bag X 828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: Human Resource Stakeholder Relations and Management), within three months from date of publication of this Notice.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. **“the Act”** means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974);
2. **“the regulations”** means the Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Psychology published as Government Notice No.R993 of 16 September 2008, and any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the regulations shall have that meaning unless the context otherwise indicates.

1. SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF REGISTERED COUNSELORS

In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of registered counselors:

- (a) performing psychological screening, primary mental status screening, basic assessment, and psychological interventions with individuals aiming at enhancing personal functioning;
- (b) performing psychological assessments excluding projective, neuropsychological and diagnostic tests;
- (c) enhancing personal functioning; performing supportive, compensatory, and routine psychological interventions;
- (d) identifying patients requiring more sophisticated or advanced psychological assessment and referring such patients to appropriately qualified and registered professionals;
- (e) participating in policy formulation based on various aspects of psychological theory and research; participating in the design, management, and evaluation of psychologically-based programmes in organizations including but not limited to health, education, labour, and correctional services;
- (f) training, and supervising other registered counselors and practitioners; Conducting psychological practice and research in accordance with Ethical Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act,
- (g) conducting, and reporting on research projects.

2. SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF PSYCHOMETRISTS

In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of psychometrists:

- (a) performing assessments, and contributing to the development of psychological tests and procedures;

- (b) measuring psychological functions including cognitive, interest, aptitude, and personality;
- (c) identifying patients requiring more sophisticated or advanced psychological assessment and referring such patients to appropriate registered professionals; providing feedback to patients on the results of psychological assessments;
- (d) participating in policy development in respect of psychological assessments;
- (e) participating in the design, management, and evaluation of psychological assessment procedures in diverse settings, and organizations including but not limited to health, education, labour and correctional services;
- (f) participating in or conducting needs analysis regarding psychological assessment in diverse settings and organizations, select/compile appropriate batteries of tests;
- (g) training, and supervising registered counselors, and psychometrists in supervised practice in psychological measurement;
- (h) conducting psychological practice and research in accordance with the Ethical Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974.
- (i) designing, and implementing research which contributes to the development of psychological assessment instruments, and reporting on such research.

3. SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of clinical psychologists:

- (a) assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in patients dealing with life challenges, particularly those with developmental and forms of psychological distress and/or psychopathology; assessing cognitive, personality, emotional, and neuropsychological functions in psychological distress and/or psychopathology; identifying psychopathology in psychiatric disorders, and psychological conditions; identifying, and diagnosing psychiatric disorders and psychological conditions; applying evidenced based psychological interventions to people with psychological, and psychiatric conditions; referring patients to appropriate professionals for further assessment or intervention;
- (b) advising on the development of policies, based on various aspects of psychological theory and research; designing, managing, and evaluating programmes dealing with psychological, and psychiatric problems;
- (c) training, and supervising other registered clinical psychologists in clinical psychology;
- (d) conducting psychological practice, and research in accordance with the Ethical Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974; adhering to the scope of practice of clinical psychologists;
- (e) designing, managing, conducting, reporting on, and supervising psychological research.

4. SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGISTS

In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of counseling psychologists:

- (a) assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in patients dealing with life challenges, and developmental problems to optimize psychological well-being; assessing cognitive, personality, emotional and neuropsychological

- functions in relation to life challenges and developmental problems; assessing developmental processes (e.g. career choice), and adjustment;
- (b) identifying psychopathology, and its impact on developmental processes, and adjustment; identifying, and diagnosing disorders of adjustments; applying psychological interventions to patients with developmental challenges, and adjustment problems; performing therapeutic counseling interventions; referring patients to appropriate professionals for further assessment or intervention;
 - (c) advising on the development of policies, based on various aspects of psychological theory and research; designing, managing and evaluating programmes dealing with developmental, and adjustment problems;
 - (d) training, and supervising other registered counseling psychologists in Counseling Psychology;
 - (e) designing, managing, conducting, reporting on, and supervising psychological research; conducting psychological practice, and research in accordance with the Ethical Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974; adhering to the scope of practice for counseling psychologists;

5. SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of psychologists:

- (a) assessing, diagnosing and intervening in order to optimise human functioning in the learning and development; assessing cognitive, personality, emotional, and neuropsychological functions of people in relation to the learning and development in which they have been trained;
- (b) identifying, and diagnosing psychopathology in relation to the learning and development; identifying and diagnosing barriers to learning and development; applying psychological interventions to enhance, promote

and facilitate optimal learning and development; performing therapeutic interventions in relation to learning and development; referring patients to appropriate professionals for further assessment or intervention;

- (c) designing, managing, conducting, reporting on, and supervising psychological research, in the learning and development; Conducting psychological practice, and research in accordance with the Ethical Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974; adhering to the scope of practice of Educational psychologists;
- (d) advising on the development of policies, based on various aspects of psychological theory, and research; designing, managing, and evaluating educationally-based programmes;
- (e) training, and supervising other registered psychological practitioners in Educational Psychology.

6. SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF RESEARCH PSYCHOLOGISTS

In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of Research Psychologists:

- (a) planning, developing, and applying psychological research methods; performing assessments relevant to the development of research for research purposes, including the development of psychological measures; researching, monitoring, and evaluating psychological interventions;
- (b) advising on the development of policies, based on psychological theory and research; designing, managing and evaluating measurements and intervention programmes;
- (c) training and supervising other registered psychological practitioners in Research Psychology.
- (d) designing, managing, conducting, reporting on, and supervising psychological research; conducting psychological practice, and research in

accordance with the Ethical Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974; adhering to the scope of practice of Research psychologists; referring patients to appropriate professionals for assessment or intervention.

7. SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF INDUSTRIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of Industrial Psychologists:

- (a) planning, developing, and applying paradigms, theories, models, constructs, and principles of psychology in the workplace in order to understand, modify, and enhance individual, group, and organizational behavior effectively;
- (b) performing psychometric, and other assessments in order to determine the potential and/ or suitability for training, development and employment and to determine individual, group and organizational effectiveness; referring patients to appropriate professionals for assessment or intervention; designing, developing, standardizing, and implementing assessment tools, and procedures related to the work environment;
- (c) facilitating individual, and group processes for effective organizational functioning; designing, and implementing training programmes for effective organizational functioning; designing, and developing strategies in consumer behavior; developing interventions to ameliorate poor performance in work settings; designing, and implementing programmes based on understanding ergonomics;
- (d) advising on the development of policies, based on psychological theory and research; designing, managing, and evaluating industrial psychology intervention programmes;
- (e) training and supervising other registered psychology practitioners in Industrial Psychology;

- (f) conducting psychological practice, and research in accordance with the Ethical Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974; adhering to the scope of practice of Industrial Psychologists;
- (g) designing, managing, conducting, reporting on, and supervising the industrial psychology research..

8. SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF NEURO-PSYCHOLOGISTS

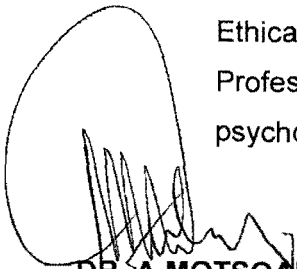
In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of Neuropsychologists:

- (a) assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in the psychological disorders of people experiencing neuropathology or compromised functioning of the central nervous system; diagnosing, and evaluating psychological disorders caused by neurological conditions and differentiating them from other psychological and non-neurological disorders; treating, and rehabilitating the psychological disorders of people suffering from central nervous system dysfunction; referring patients to appropriate professionals for further assessment or intervention;
- (b) advising on policy development, based on neuropsychological theory and research; designing, managing, and evaluating neuropsychologically-based programmes; designing, managing, conducting, reporting on, and supervising neuropsychological research;
- (c) training, and supervising other registered psychological practitioners in Neuropsychology;
- (d) conducting psychological practice, and research in accordance with the Ethical Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974; adhering to the scope of practice of Neuropsychologists;

9. SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGISTS

In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of Forensic Psychologists:

- (a) conducting psychological assessments, diagnoses, and interventions; referring patients to appropriate professionals for further assessment or intervention;
- (b) providing expert evidence and / or opinions;
- (c) providing therapeutic interventions;
- (d) advising on the development of policies, based on forensic psychological theory and research;
- (e) designing, managing, and evaluating forensic psychology-based programmes, and interventions; designing, managing, and conducting research; reporting on, and supervising research, in Forensic Psychology
- (f) training, and supervising students, interns, and other registered psychology practitioners in forensic psychology.
- (g) conducting psychological practice and research in accordance with the Ethical Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974, adhering to the scope of practice of forensic psychologists.



DR. A MOTSOLEDI

MINISTER OF HEALTH, MP