

## BOARD / RAAD

NO. 913

01 SEPTEMBER 2017

**SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS ACT, 1978**  
**(ACT NO. 110 OF 1978)**

**REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF A  
SPECIALISATION IN CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK**

I, Bathabile Olive Dlamini, Minister of Social Development, has in terms of sections 17C (2) (a) (ii); 28(1) (ii) and 28(1) (gA) of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978, made the Regulations as set out in the Schedule.



**Ms BO DLAMINI, MP**

**MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE:** 03.07.17

## SCHEDULE

### Definitions

1. In these Regulations any word or expression to which the meaning has been assigned in the Act, shall have such meaning, unless the context indicates otherwise –

**"Act"** means the Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act No. 110 of 1978);

**"clinical social worker"** means a registered social work specialist with advanced therapeutic competence to intervene in the mental health and other psychosocial consequences of psychiatric, health and other life challenges;

**"clinical social work"** means an area of specialisation, practiced in various settings, which requires advanced therapeutic competence to intervene in the mental health and other psychosocial consequences of psychiatric, health and other life challenges;

**"professional board"** means the professional board for social work;

**"SACSSP"** means the South African Council for Social Service Professions established by Section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act No.110 of 1978); and

**"social work"** means a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people with the principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities being central to social work and underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.

## **Requirements for the registration of specialisation in clinical social work**

**2. (1)** The Professional Board shall on application register a specialisation in clinical social work, where a social worker has a recognised qualification in social work and is registered as a social worker with the SACSSP and has any one or more of the following-

- (a) an appropriate Master's degree approved by the SACSSP related to clinical social work, plus at least two years appropriate and evidence based practical experience within the scope of clinical social work services; or
- (b) five years appropriate and evidence based practical experience within the scope of clinical social work services; provided that the applicant demonstrates expertise in clinical social work by meeting the assessment criteria of the SACSSP for the purpose of determining whether the social worker concerned is competent to practice clinical social work.

(2) A social worker who has complied with the requirements referred to in 2(1)(a) and (b) will need to register for the specialisation in clinical social work within a period of four years of this regulations being published in the Government Gazette. Failure to register within the prescribed period will require the applicant to comply with 2(1) (a).

(3) A social worker who has registered as a specialist should adhere to the Continuing Professional Development Policy of the SACSSP and should ensure that the continuing professional development activities that

they attend include specific development related to the specialisation in clinical social work that is being practised.

(3) The competencies which a clinical social worker must have include-

- (a) assessment: assessing the mental health and other psychosocial consequences of psychiatric, health and other life challenges undertaken in an ecological framework;
- (b) therapeutic intervention: development and implementation of systematic, assessment-based and theoretically grounded services and treatment plans. These may include providing counselling and psychotherapy to individuals, couples, families and small groups drawing on the full range of evolving therapeutic techniques and modalities;
- (c) rigorous systematic documentation and review of the treatment outcomes; and
- (d) intra-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary consultative and collaborative practice and appropriate referrals.

### **Conditions for practising as a clinical social worker**

3.(1) A social worker who has complied with the requirements referred to in regulation 2, may practise the profession of social work as a specialist in clinical social work subject to paying the prescribed registration fee relating to the registration of the specialisation.

(2) In the case of a social worker applying for registration of a specialisation in terms of regulation 2(1) (b), the prescribed assessment fee must be paid.

(3) A social worker who has registered a specialisation in clinical social work is not excluded from practising social work within a generic context.

(4) A social worker who does not have the required experience in clinical social work and wishes to obtain registration as a specialist in clinical social work, may obtain such experience under the supervision of a specialist clinical social worker or clinical psychologist registered as such with the SACSSP.

#### **Application for registering a specialisation in clinical social work**

4. (1) Application for the registration of a specialisation in clinical social work shall be made on a form obtainable from the SACSSP.

(2) Such application form shall be accompanied by –

- (a) proof of registration as a social worker with the SACSSP;
- (b) certified copies of documentary proof of the experience referred to in regulation 2 (1)(a) and (b);
- (c) certified copies of documentary proof of the qualifications obtained which are referred to in regulation 2; and

- (d) the registration fee referred to in regulation 3(1).

(3) The Registrar must keep a separate register for clinical social workers in line with section 19 read with section 28(1)(gA) of the Act.

### **General provisions**

5. (1) A social worker who has registered for specialisation in clinical social work may affix the designation "specialist in clinical social work" after his or her name.

(2) No person may call himself or herself a clinical social worker without having registered for a specialisation in clinical social work with the SACSSP.

(3) A social worker who has registered a specialisation in clinical social work shall display conspicuously in his or her office the registration certificate issued to him or her in terms of the Act.

### **Short title and commencement**

6. These regulations are called the Regulations Relating to the Registration of a Specialisation in Clinical Social Work, 2017 and comes into operation on the date of publication in the Government Gazette.