

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NO. R. 582

22 MAY 2020

**SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS ACT, 1978 (Act No. 110 of 1978)****REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS FOR REGISTRATION  
OF A SPECIALITY IN OCCUPATIONAL SOCIAL WORK**

I, Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of Social Development intend, in terms of section 28(1)(gA)(i) and (ii) of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act No. 110 of 1978) and on the recommendation of the South African Council for Social Service Professions and the Professional Board for Social Work, to make the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit substantiated written comments or representations on the proposed regulations to the Minister of Social Development, Private Bag X901, Pretoria, 0001 or 134 Pretorius Street, Pretoria, 0001; (for the attention of Ms Galeboe Rapoo) or by email to [galeboer@dsd.gov.za](mailto:galeboer@dsd.gov.za), within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice in the Government Gazette.



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**MS LINDIWE D ZULU, MP**  
**MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**  
DATE: 17...10.2.2020

## SCHEDULE

### 1. Definitions

In these Regulations, unless the context indicates otherwise-

“**Act**” means the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 and includes the regulations, schedules and rules;

“**assessment**” means the process that is undertaken by the Professional Board for Social Work to determine whether an applicant meets all the requirements to register for a speciality in social work;

“**Council**” means the South African Council for Social Service Professions established in terms of section 2 of the Act;

“**client systems**” means in occupational social work the employees as part of the work system as well as their family systems; the employing organisation (where the employees are employed); and communities with which the employing organisation has operational or geographical links that has either asked for or sanctioned social work services, is expected to benefit from those services and has entered into an agreement of co-operation or a contract with a social worker.

“**employing organisation**” means any organisation or state department who employs an occupational social worker on a full time, part time or contractual basis;

“**occupational social work**” means a specialised field in social work, that addresses the human and social needs of the work community within a developmental approach through a variety of interventions which aim to foster optimal adaptation between individuals and their environment

“**occupational social worker**” means a registered social worker with scientific and specialised knowledge, skills and experience in occupational social work.

“**professional board**” means the Professional Board for Social Work established in terms of section 14A of the Act;

“**proficiency**” means an advance knowledge, skill and experience in a certain defined area of social work;

“**scope or practice**” means the parameters within which an occupational social worker who has met the prescribed registration requirements practise;

“**social work**” means a practise-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 (IFSW and IASSW, 2014); and

“**social worker**” means a person registered in terms of section 17 of the Act.

## 2. Requirements for registration of speciality in occupational social work

- (1) These regulations prescribe in accordance with section 17C(1) of the Act the qualifications and proficiencies required to be registered for a speciality in occupational social work.
- (2) The South African Council for Social Service Professions shall on application register an applicant for a speciality in occupational social work where the applicant has:
- (a) submitted proof of registration as a social worker in accordance with the provisions of the Act;
  - (b) paid the prescribed administration, assessment and moderation fees as determined by the Council at that point in time; and
  - (c) submitted proof as contemplated in section 17C(2)(a)(ii) of the Act that he or she complies with one or more of the following prescribed requirements:
    - (i) masters' degree in social work appropriate to a speciality in occupational social work, plus two years of relevant evidence based practical knowledge and experience within the scope of occupational social work; or
    - (ii) post graduate certificate or diploma appropriate to a speciality in occupational social work, plus three years of relevant evidence based practical knowledge and experience within the scope of occupational social work; or
    - (iii) bachelor's degree in social work, plus the completion of accredited short course in occupational social work recognised and approved by the Council, on recommendation of the Professional Board for Social Work, with four years of relevant evidence based practical knowledge and experience within the scope of occupational social work; or
    - (iv) bachelor's degree in social work, with five years of relevant evidence based practical knowledge and experience within the scope of occupational social work.
  - (d) The evidence based practical knowledge and experience contemplated in regulation 2(c)(i)-(iv) must meet the assessment criteria of the Council for the purpose of determining whether the social worker concerned has the required proficiencies to practice a speciality in occupational social work.
- (3) (a) A social worker who applies to register for a speciality in occupational social work and does not meet the prescribed requirements in sub-regulation (2), may apply to sit for an examination as contemplated in section 17C(2A)(a) of the Act.
- (b) The examination as contemplated in sub-regulation 2(a) shall be based on specific standards related to the proficiencies for a speciality in occupational social work as approved by the Council, on recommendation of the Professional Board for Social Work.
- (c) For the purpose of the examination as contemplated in regulation 2(a) the Council, on recommendation of the Professional Board of Social Work, shall:
- (i) determine the annual date for the conducting of the examination;
  - (ii) appoint in accordance with section 17C (2A)(a) of the Act at least two external examiners with proven knowledge in occupational social work and at least one representative from the Professional Board of Social Work to prepare and conduct the examination;

- (iii) determine whether the examination will be in writing or will be oral; and
- (iv) determine the competence level of such an examination in accordance with section 17C(2A)(a) of the Act.

(4) An applicant who completed a written or oral examination in occupational social work in accordance with sub-regulation (3), shall be provided with the examination results.

(5) Only a person who has met the criteria as contemplated in sub-regulation (2), or who has passed the examination as contemplated in sub-regulation (3) may be registered for a speciality in occupational social work.

### **3. Scope of practice for speciality in occupational social work**

(1) Occupational social work includes-

- (a) work focussed assessment by assessing the needs or problems of various client systems in the workplace and the reciprocal relationship between them;
- (b) the assessment of the interface and impact of the employing organisation in the community in which the workplace functions;
- (c) work focussed interventions with individuals, groups, employing organisations and communities;
- (d) implementing organisation and community interventions to ensure a socially responsible employing organisation;
- (e) the promotion of a culture in the workplace to enhance human rights practises, social justice and productivity; and
- (f) work focussed policy and programme development.

### **4. Conditions for practise of speciality in occupational social work**

(1) A social worker who has complied with the requirements referred to in regulation 2(2) may in terms of section 17C(2) of the Act be registered for and practise a speciality in occupational social work.

(2) A social worker who is not registered for a speciality in occupational social work will not be precluded from practising acts related to occupational social work, subject to the provisions of regulation 6

(3) A social worker who is registered for a speciality in occupational social work should adhere to requirements of the Council pertaining to continuing professional development.

(4) A social worker after registering for a speciality in occupational social work in terms of section 17C of the Act may practise as a specialist in occupational social work, provided the social worker pays the prescribed annual fee -

- (a) as a social worker; and
- (b) for the speciality.

(5) A social worker after registering a speciality in occupational social work who ceases to comply with any prescribed requirement for the registration of a speciality in occupational social work shall be removed from the Register in accordance with section 17C(3)(b) of the Act.

## **5. Application for registering speciality in occupational social work**

(1) Applicants shall complete and submit an application on a form obtainable from the Council together with the required proof that the applicant complies with the requirements for a speciality as contemplated in section 17C(1)(a)(ii) of the Act.

(2) The application contemplated in sub-regulation (1) shall be accompanied by the following supporting documents-

- (a) proof of current social work registration with the Council;
- (b) a certified copy of relevant qualifications or recognised short course contemplated in regulation 2(2)(c)(i)-(iii);
- (c) proof of payment of the prescribed administration, assessment and moderation fees; and
- (d) a signed letter from the supervisor or relevant consultant or manager confirming years of experience in occupational social work.

(3) All applications for a speciality in occupational social work shall be assessed as contemplated in section 17C(2)(a)(i) or (ii) of the Act.

(4) The assessment shall be in line with the criteria based on the standards related to the proficiencies for a speciality in occupational social work.

(5) The Council, on recommendation of the Professional Board of Social Work, shall approve the criteria and standards contemplated in sub-regulation (4).

(6) The Registrar and the Professional Board for Social Work shall undertake the assessment contemplated in sub-regulations (3) and (4).

## **6. Use of titles**

(1) The title '*occupational social worker*' may only be used by a person who has been registered for a speciality in occupational social work in accordance with regulation 2.

(2) No person may in accordance with section 17C(5) of the Act practise as an occupational social worker unless he or she is registered as such in accordance with regulation 2.

(3) A social worker who has registered a speciality in occupational social work shall display clearly his or her registration certificate as

- (a) social worker; and
- (b) occupational social worker.

## **7. Repeal of regulations**

These regulations repeal the *Regulations relating to the registration of specialisation in occupational social work* published in Government Notice R. 15 (Government Gazette No: 32886 of 22 January 2010).

## **8. Short title and commencement**

These regulations are called the *Regulations relating to the requirements and conditions for registration of a speciality in occupational social work* and come into operation upon publication.