

Current and Prospective Member Information

A Response to Concerns Regarding Accreditation and Legal Status in South Africa

26 January 2022

1. Summary

This section provide a summary and current status of the following key concerns that have been raised by members and candidates:

- The legality of practicing as a PTI-trained play therapist in South Africa;
- The use of the title “Play Therapist” in South Africa; and
- The recognition and/or accreditation of PTI qualifications within South Africa.

Each of these topics, as well as some other queries, are discussed in detail below. The objective of the summary is to provide the key findings only.

1.1 The legality of practicing as a PTI-trained play therapist in South Africa

Warnings that therapists engaging in play therapy may be found guilty of committing a criminal offence because of the use of terminology like “Play Therapy” forming part of the scope of practice of psychologists, are not based on the correct legal position.

There is no legislation currently in force that criminalises practicing play therapy in South Africa for PTI trained therapists. (See section below for full details)

While PTI members are unable to register as “Play Therapist” with the ASCHP, this is merely because such a designation does not exist yet. PTI Members can register with the ASCHP under the designation “Wellness Counselor” and are fully entitled to practice play therapy under this designation. The absence of a formal designation of “Play Therapist” does not render the use of play therapy techniques illegal.

1.2 The use of the title “Play Therapist” in South Africa

The title “Play Therapist” is not a legally defined Health Profession under the HPCSA Act, nor is it a formal designation listed with ASCHP. We found no record of any legislation claiming exclusive use of the word “Play Therapist” for those registered with the HPCSA in South Africa.

The title “Play Therapist” is not explicitly governed or endowed by any body or legislation in South Africa. Within South Africa, it does not **legally** denote any of the following:

- A. a particular professional status;
- B. the possession of prescribed qualifications; or
- C. the meeting of any other academic or clinical criteria.

As a result, it does not have a “reserved” status and can be used by PTI-trained therapists as a descriptive title.

It is therefore appropriate and safe to use on email signatures, websites and other materials. We do, however, caution members to take care to ensure that they do not create the impression that the title has any formal status with HPCSA or ASCHP. When referencing ASCHP registration, always use the formal designation under which you are registered (e.g. “Wellness Counselor”).

1.3 The recognition and/or accreditation of PTI qualifications within South Africa

PTI qualifications are not formally recognised or accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) at present.

However, the absence of such recognition - while undermining efforts to gain wider acceptance and credibility for the profession in South Africa - does not render the use of the therapeutic skills acquired through the PTI training illegal.

Notwithstanding the above, it remains PTI SA's objective to obtain this accreditation and we remain committed to achieving this in due course.

A short history, current actions and future plans:

Our first attempt at this was initiated in 2019, when Leeds Beckett University agreed to begin the process of formally accrediting South Africa as a location and engaging with the South African Department of Higher Education to obtain the status of a recognised Higher Education

Institute within South Africa. If successful, this process would have led to the desired recognition of PTI qualifications with SAQA.

Disappointingly, PTI SA were informed in 2021 that this process had been abandoned by Leeds Beckett University due to a lack of responsiveness from the South African Department of Higher Education and a change in policy internally within Leeds Beckett.

Since then we have been investigating other options and have concluded that the best path forward is still to establish PTI SA as a registered Higher Education Institute.

The local SA management team has taken over responsibility for pursuing this and we are currently in the feasibility phase of the initiative. We have appointed an experienced accreditation consultant (and ex-SAQA employee) with a track record of achieving accreditation for similar organisations. Our initial goal is to assess the accreditation requirements in order to understand the effort and financial investment required. We expect to conclude this phase by the end of March 2022, at which point we will have a clear view of the way forward.

The next step after that would be to begin preparing our accreditation application. We have been advised that it is typical for this step to take 6-9 months to complete. Once submitted, it normally takes another 9-12 months before approval is finally obtained. Based on this information we expect that we are likely to achieve accreditation by 2024.

From our preliminary discussions with the consultant, it is apparent that it will not be a trivial exercise to achieve accreditation and it is likely to require a significant financial investment. However, we are still optimistic that it is within reach and will keep PTI members informed of our progress.

2. Detailed Information

2.1 Background

Since PTI began offering courses in South Africa, we have received several queries on the legal position of PTISA. In this document we address the issues as we understand them, but invite all stakeholders to send their questions and input so that all the possible concerns may be dealt with.

We now deal with questions received so far, but invite you to send input on this document and further questions to René Ohlhoff at rene@apac.org.uk.

2.2 May I call myself a Play Therapist, and may I register with the HPCSA in South Africa as a Play Therapist?

Since 2013, PTISA ventured into a conservatively structured terrain with the non-directive, child led play therapy validated through clinical outcomes world-wide. PTISA faced opposition in the form of intimidating articles and messages warning of criminal proceedings with fines and/or imprisonment should therapists and counsellors who were trained by PTISA call themselves Play Therapists. We found no record of any legislation claiming exclusive use of the word “Play Therapist” for those registered with the HPCSA in South Africa.

All PTISA students are encouraged to register as a member of ASCHP (<https://www.aschp.net/>). The ASCHP is a private company and fully SAQA approved. ASCHP sought registration as a professional body for counsellors with SAQA in 2015 and mainly work in the domain of wellness. Following the publication of its intention to register as a professional body for counsellors in the Government Gazette, its registration was finalised.

As a recognized professional body, the ASCHP is obliged to comply with all the regulations of professional bodies as set out by NQF legislation and SAQA mandated to implement the NQF Act 67 Of 2008. The recognition of a Professional Body will contribute to strengthen social responsiveness and accountability within the professions not registered with the HPCSA.

2.3 The South African Qualifications Authority

PTISA is not yet registered with SAQA. We have approached a full-time consultant (a person previously employed by SAQA) to attend to the registration of PTISA with SAQA. Updates will be provided regularly to all interested parties.

The training provided by PTISA will be evaluated by SAQA to establish the NFQ standing of the courses and appropriate registration status.

2.4 Must I register with the HPSCA

It has been suggested that PTI therapists are “*legally not allowed to*” work in the playroom as “*there appears to have been a potential misrepresentation on the part of PTUK/PTI/ PTI SA, in stating that we can practice within the Republic of South Africa?*” There has been no misrepresentation. You may practice play therapy as a “Wellness Counselor” registered with ASCHP.

Further comments include that “*...I have subsequently discovered that in accordance with the Health Professions Act (Act 56 of 1974), the following are legislated barriers to being able to fulfil course requirements (The Health Professions Act, should be read in conjunction with the full ambit of the Mental Health Care Act (Act 17 of 2002)*”. She then refers to Chapter II: Education, Training and Registration of the Health Professions Act.

The long title and purpose of the Act is “*To establish the Health Professions Council of South Africa and professional boards; to provide for control over the education, training and registration for and practising of health professions **registered under this Act***”. (our emphasis).

One must establish whether the Act applies to PTI in respect of the training it provides, as well as you as therapists.

Section 16 of the Act regulates control over training. It states that:

“(1) *...no person or educational institution, excluding a university or technikon, may offer or provide any training having as its object to qualify any person for the practising of any profession to which the provisions of this Act apply unless such training has been approved by the professional board concerned.*” (our emphasis).

One cannot consider section 16 by ignoring the definitions in section 1 of the Act. It provides the following:

“*health practitioner*” means any person, including a student, registered with the council in a profession registrable in terms of this Act; and

“*health profession*” means any profession for which a professional board has been established in terms of section 15 and includes any category or group of persons provided for by such a board”.

There is no professional board for Play Therapists in South Africa. It is not a “health profession”. A person cannot register as a Play Therapist in SA and therefore cannot be a “health practitioner” registered with the HPCSA in a profession registrable in terms of this Act.

“(2) Any person or educational institution wishing to offer such training as is referred to in subsection (1) shall, before offering such training, apply to the professional board concerned in writing for its approval of such training and shall furnish such particulars regarding such training as the professional board may require”.

There is no professional board in South Africa for Play Therapists to register.

“(5). Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of this section shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction, liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.”

The above section relates to the training facet and the person or institution providing the training. None of you can be affected by this. If PTISA falls foul of the section, then we shall account for it.

I will now touch on registration.

Section 17 of the Act deals with “*Registration a prerequisite for practicing*”. It states that:

“(1) No person shall be entitled to practice within the Republic-
*(a) any **health profession** registrable in terms of this Act,*
unless he or she is registered in terms of this Act”. (my emphasis).

Section 17(5) states that “*Any person who is not registered in terms of this Act and practises a **health profession** in contravention of this section ... is guilty of an offence and on conviction is*

liable to a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months or to both a fine and such imprisonment”.

There is no professional board in South Africa for Play Therapists to register in a health profession or as a health practitioner as defined in section 1 of the Act.

Section 34 reads as follows:

*“Registration a prerequisite for practising a **profession** in respect of which a **professional board** has been established*

*(1) Subject to the provisions of sections 33(2)(c) and 39, no person shall practise within the Republic any **health profession** the scope of which has been defined by the Minister in terms of section 33 (1), unless he or she is registered in terms of this Act in respect of such profession.*

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to the penalties mentioned in section 39”. (my emphasis).

Section 39 reads as follows:

*“(1) No person shall perform any **act deemed to be an act pertaining to any health profession** as may be prescribed under this Act unless he or she –*

*(a) is registered in terms of this Act in respect of such **profession**;*

*(b) (i) is registered in terms of this Act in respect of any other **profession** referred to in section 33 to which such act is also deemed to pertain;*

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, or to both a fine and such imprisonment”. (my emphasis).

Under the FAQ section of playtherapytraining.co.za, the following is stated:

"The Certificate in Therapeutic Play Skills is the first main step in qualifying and practising as a Play Therapist. Play Therapists are unable to register with the HPCSA, but can register with the Association for supportive counsellors and holistic practitioners (ASCHP) in South Africa. This is a recognised association for counsellors”.

2.5 Can I register as a “Play Therapist” with ASCHP?

One cannot register as a “Play Therapist” at any professional or governing body in South Africa (including ASCHP) as there is no designation specifically allowing one to be a Play Therapist. (See Annexure E)

A person can register as a certain designation at the respective professional or governing bodies, allowing you to work with children in a therapeutic or counselling manner, and then further your competence through specialist courses. For example, a social worker will be registered at the SACSSP as a social worker, with Specialisation in Play-Based Intervention (play therapy), or a counsellor will be registered at ASCPH/HPCSA, as your specific designation, with Specialisation in Play-Based Intervention (play therapy).”

PTI Members can register with ASCHP under the designation “Wellness Counselor” and may then work with children in a therapeutic or counselling manner employing play therapy techniques.

2.6 Does the Children’s Act apply to PTI SA Members?

Yes. PTISA operates in line with the objectives and requirements of the Children’s Act (Act 38 of 2005) in sharing the same objectives. See section 2 of the Children’s Act.

2.7 Does the Health Professions Act apply to PTI SA Members?

No. Health Professions have to be registered at the HPCSA under a professional overseeing board. There is no such board for Play Therapy and consequently no formal Health Profession for Play Therapy.

2.8 Does the Mental Health Act apply to PTI SA Members?

No, it forms part of the HPCSA.

2.9 Is the Scope of Practice regulation of the Health Professions Act prohibiting PTI SA students’ client sessions?

No. Warnings that therapist engaging in play therapy may be found guilty of committing a criminal offence because of the use of terminology like “ Play Therapy” forming part of the scope of practice of psychologists is not based on the correct legal position.

Note the important history:

- Position defined by Regulation 993, 16 Sept 2008. See Annex A.
- Attempted update of Regulation 993 by proposing Regulation 704, 02 Sept 2011. See Annex B.
- A court case stretching over 2 years with a further 2 year grace period ordered by the court to complete lacking administrative conditions followed.
- Board Notice 101 of 2018 was published-calling forth substantiated comments from interested persons for the prohibition of the performance of psychological acts by unregistered persons and contravention to be criminalized. See Annex C.
- Letter from Professional Board of Psychology of HPCSA dated 7 November 2019 confirming that the Board resolved to advise the minister not to proceed with Regulation 704 of 16 Sept 2011. The repeal of the 2011 regulations has the effect that Regulation 993 of Sept 2008 remained in place and still is. See Annex D.

CONDENSED CONTENT OF THE CURRENT REGULATION 993 TO THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974 PERTAINING TO SCOPE OF PRACTISE:

Evaluation of mental or personality behaviour

The use of any psychological method

Evaluation of emotions or cognitive processes

Control over prescribed psychological questionnaires

Development of psychological questionnaires

Use of psychological questionnaires

Use of hypnotherapy

Use of any psychotherapeutic method, technique or procedure to rectify, relieve or change personality, emotional, behavioral or adjustment problems or mental deficiency of individuals or groups of people.

Use of any psychotherapeutic method, technique or procedure to prevent personality, emotional, cognitive behavioral or adjustment problems or mental illness of individuals or groups of people.

These regulations shall not prohibit an intern-psychologist actually undergoing internship training from performing any function.

These regulations shall not be construed as prohibiting educational training and trainers recognized by the board. *(The ASCHP is recognised by the HCPC as their intention to register was set out in the Government Gazette before registration.)*

This regulation does not refer to or use the term “Play Therapy” and does not include criminalized fines or imprisonment for contravention (as the repealed Regulation 704 of 2011, read together with Board Notice 101 of 2018, envisaged to do).

2.10 What are the benefits of PTI Membership?

Memberships enables members to not only belonging to an organisation of dedicated professionals, but to also benefit in the following ways:

- The quarterly Play for life Journal contains practice-based articles which contain a wealth of knowledge from Play Therapists. These good practice articles can support and enhance the practice of those who read them in whatever country they live.
- PTUK/PTI is accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) who oversee all Health and Social Care regulators in the UK and manages this government approved register in the UK also on behalf of PTI.
- PTUK/PTI is audited yearly for re accreditation by the PSA, regarding its standards which align with those of the PSA. This means it is quality assured and so are its registrants when employers search for a suitable candidate. The registrants are monitored throughout the year based on PTUK /PTI Play Therapy competencies. PTUK/PTI registrants therefore follow the highest standards in the world of Play Therapy
- We provide all registrants with Fortuna, a free electronic management system for the safe storage of clinical data. Fortuna supersedes Caerus, and many members have had first-hand experience of the support we offer when you run into technical difficulties.
- We provide ongoing support to PTUK registrants and approved Clinical Supervisors
- Practice based advice and support from the Clinical Management Team
- Through your greatly valued playtherapy entries into the record management system PTUK/ PTI are enabled to do unique research the outcome of which can be obtained for your country from the PTI office and then be used in your to support the successful spread of the efficacy of play therapy in your country and give as many children as possible the opportunity through play therapy to achieve their potential. No other psychological organisation in the world has such research.

- Conferences to develop knowledge and skills (online) (conferences in the past 2 yrs have been recorded. In the first year free of charge and last year for a minimal charge,) so everyone all over the world can attend at a time of their choice.
- Accrediting CPD training specifically for play therapist online supporting play therapists for everyone in the world. New for 2022 there will be continued professional development opportunities (online).

We encourage members to get involved and forward useful articles of good practice for the Play for Life Journal or the monthly GTK newsletter generated in the UK, so your country would be represented. This would develop the knowledge and skills of play therapists all over the world. Leading by example supports the play therapy profession in your country.

2.11 Pricing of Courses in South Africa

All course fees and membership fees are determined centrally by PTI management and not locally in South Africa.

PTI has a policy of differentiated pricing between developed and developing countries, with developing countries receiving a significant discount. South Africa is considered a developing country and as such, our course fees are benchmarked against other countries where PTI offer the same courses such as India and Malaysia.

As it stands today, our course fees in South Africa are on par or lower than the same course anywhere else in the world.

2.12. Why is there VAT on the training course Invoice, but not on the membership fee invoice?

There are two separate companies related to PTI registered in South Africa:

- **Play Therapy Training SA (2019/553060/07):** This entity is responsible for facilitating the training courses in South Africa. This entity is liable for VAT as its annual turnover exceeds the required threshold. All invoices for this business includes VAT accordingly.
- **PTI Members SA (2021/308529/07):** This second entity was created solely for the purpose of collecting the membership fees locally. It was deliberately kept separate in order to avoid having to charge VAT on the membership fee and increase the costs to members. All funds received by PTI Members SA are transferred to PTI/PTUK, apart from essential

expenses required to operate the entity such as bank costs, accountants etc. We also use some of these funds to pay for legal services and research into local accreditation initiatives. The South African directors receive no remuneration or profit from this entity in South Africa.



Play Therapy Training South Africa
– The United Kingdom Society for Play and Creative Arts Therapies –
and Play Therapy International
Email: contact@playtherapytraining.co.za



Annex A

Government Gazette 16 Sept.2008

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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

No. R. 993

16 September 2008

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF PSYCHOLOGY

The Minister of Health has, in terms of section 33(1) of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974, as amended by Act No. 29 of 2007 and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, made the regulations in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations unless the context otherwise indicates, "**the Act**" shall mean the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974) as amended, and any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning, and unless the context otherwise indicates-

"**board**" means the Professional Board of Psychology established in terms of section 15(1) of the Act;

"**psychology**" means the profession of a person registered under the Act as a psychologist, psychometrist, registered counsellor, psycho technician or in any other category of registration as may be established by the board; and

"**section**" means a section of the Act.

Scope of the profession

2. The following acts shall be deemed to be acts specially pertaining to the profession of psychology:-

(a) the evaluation of behaviour or mental processes or personality adjustments or adjustments of individuals or of groups of persons, through the use or interpretation

- of any psychological test, questionnaire, instrument, apparatus, device or similar method for the determination of intellectual abilities, aptitude, interests, personality make-up or personality functioning, and the diagnosis or measurement of personality and emotional functions, neuropsychological disorders and mental functioning deficiencies according to a recognised scientific system for the classification of mental deficiencies;
- (b) the use of any psychological method or practice aimed at aiding persons or groups of persons in the adjustment of personality, emotional or behavioural problems or at the promotion of positive personality change, growth and development, and the identification and evaluation of personality dynamics and personality functioning according to scientific psychological methods;
- (c) the evaluation of emotional, behavioural and cognitive processes or adjustment of personality of individuals or groups of persons by the usage and interpretation of psychological questionnaires, tests, projections, or other techniques or any apparatus, whether of South African origin or imported, for the determination of intellectual abilities, aptitude, personality make-up, personality functioning psycho physiological functioning or psychopathology;
- (d) the exercising of control over prescribed psychological questionnaires or tests or prescribed techniques, apparatus or instruments for the determination of intellectual abilities, aptitude, personality make-up, personality functioning, psychophysiological functioning or psychopathology;
- (e) the development of and control over the development of psychological questionnaires, tests, techniques, apparatus or instruments for the determination of intellectual abilities, aptitude, personality make-up, personality functioning, psychophysiological functioning or psychopathology;
- (f) the use of any psychological questionnaire, test, prescribed techniques, instrument, apparatus, device or similar method for the determination of intellectual abilities, aptitude, personality make-up, personality functioning, temperament, psychophysiological functioning, psycho-pathology or personnel career selection, and for this purpose the board will publish a Board Notice listing the tests which are classified by the board for use by registered psychologists;

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- (g) the use of hypnotherapy;
 - (h) the use of any psychotherapeutic method, technique or procedure to rectify, relieve or change personality, emotional, behavioural or adjustment problems or mental deficiencies of individuals or groups of people; and
 - (i) the use of any psychological method or psychological counselling to prevent personality, emotional, cognitive, behavioural and adjustment problems or mental illnesses of individuals or groups of people.
3. These regulations shall not prohibit an intern-psychologist actually undergoing an *internship training* from-
- (a) performing any function or issuing any certificate or other document which in terms of any law, other than the Act, may be or is required to be performed or issued by a psychologist whether described in such law as a psychologist or by any other name or designation; or
 - (b) describing himself or herself as a psychologist in connection with the performance of any such function or the issuing of any such certificate or other document, and any reference in any such law to such a psychologist shall be deemed to include a reference to an intern-psychologist.
4. These regulations shall not be construed as prohibiting the following-
- (a) the use of a method or technique, referred to in regulation 2, by
 - (i) an educational, a training or a research institution recognized by the board and the council; or
 - (ii) a member of the academic staff of a higher educational or training institution recognized by the board or council.
 - (b) anything necessary or required to be done by a student psychologist in the course of and for the purposes of his or her studies at a university or other prescribed institution, provided it is done under the supervision of a psychologist.

Registration a prerequisite to practice

5. Any person who wishes to perform any of the acts prescribed in regulation 2 shall apply in the prescribed manner to the board for registration as a psychologist and submit proof of having complied with the prescribed requirements for such registration.

Repeal

6. The regulations published under Government Notices Nos. R.1862, R.1863 and R.1864 of 16 September 1977 are hereby repealed.

**M E TSHABALALA MSIMANG****MINISTER OF HEALTH**



Play Therapy Training South Africa
– The United Kingdom Society for Play and Creative Arts Therapies –
and Play Therapy International
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Annex B

Government Gazette 2 Sept. 2011

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

No. R. 704

2 September 2011

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

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF PSYCHOLOGY

The Minister of Health has, under section 61 read with section 33 of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974) and after consultation with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, made the regulations in the schedule.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations "**the regulations**" means the Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Psychology published as Government Notice No. R. 993 of 16 September 2008.

Amendment of the regulations

2. The regulations are hereby amended by the addition of the following Annexure.

ANNEXURE**SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF REGISTERED COUNSELLORS**

1. In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of registered counsellors:
 - (a) performing psychological screening, primary mental status screening, basic assessment, and psychological interventions with individuals aiming at enhancing personal functioning;
 - (b) performing psychological assessment excluding projective, neuropsychological and diagnostic tests;
 - (c) enhancing personal functioning; performing supportive, compensatory, and routine psychological interventions;
 - (d) identifying clients requiring more sophisticated or advanced psychological assessment and referring such clients to appropriate 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 the organisations including but not limited to health, education, labour, and correctional services;
 - (f) training, and supervising other registered counsellors and practitioners; 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 registered counsellors;
 - (g) conducting, and reporting on research projects; and
 - (h) providing expert evidence and / or opinions.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF PSYCHOMETRISTS

2. 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 clients requiring more sophisticated or advanced psychological assessment and referring such clients to appropriate and registered professionals; providing feedback to clients on the results of psychological assessments;
 - (d) participating in policy development in respect of psychological assessment;
 - (e) participating in the design, management, and evaluation of psychological assessment procedure in diverse settings, and organisations 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 organisations, select/compile appropriate batteries of tests;
 - (g) training, and supervising registered counsellors, and psychometrists in supervised practice in psychological measurement;
 - (h) conducting psychological practice and research in accordance with the Ethical Rules of Conduct Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974; adhering to the scope of practice of psychometrists;

- (i) designing, and implementing research which contributes to the development of psychological assessment instruments, and reporting on such research; and
- (j) providing expert evidence and / or opinions.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

3. 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 clients dealing with life challenges, particularly those with developmental and forms of 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 clients 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; and
 - (f) providing expert evidence and / or opinions.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGISTS

4. In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of counselling psychologists:
 - (a) Assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in clients dealing with life challenges, and developmental problems to optimise 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 clients with developmental challenges, and adjustment problems; performing therapeutic counselling interventions; referring clients 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 counselling psychologists in counselling 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 of counselling psychologists; and
 - (f) providing expert evidence and / or opinions.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

5. In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the scope of practice of educational 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 clients 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; and
 - (f) providing expert evidence and / or opinions.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF RESEARCH PSYCHOLOGIST

6. 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 measurement 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 clients to appropriate professionals for assessment or intervention; and
 - (e) providing expert evidence and / or opinions.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF INDUSTRIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

7. 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 organisational behaviour 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 organisational effectiveness; referring clients to appropriate professionals for assessment or intervention; designing, developing, standardising, and implementing assessment tools, and procedures related to the work environment;
- (c) facilitating individual, and group processes for effective organisational functioning; designing, and implementing training programmes for effective organisational functioning; designing, and developing strategies in consumer behaviour; 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;
- (h) providing expert evidence and / or opinions.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF NEURO-PSYCHOLOGISTS

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

- (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 clients to appropriate professionals for further assessment or intervention;
- (b) advising on policy development, based on neuropsychological theory and research; 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; and
- (e) providing expert evidence and / or opinions.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

9. 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) conducting psychological assessments, diagnoses, and interventions, referring clients to appropriate professionals for further assessment or intervention;
 - (b) providing therapeutic interventions;
 - (c) advising on the development of policies, based on forensic psychological theory and research;

- (d) designing, managing, and evaluating forensic psychology-based programmes, and interventions; designing, managing, and conducting research; reporting on, and supervising research, in forensic psychology;
- (e) training, supervising students, interns, and other registered psychology practitioners in forensic 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 forensic psychologists; and
- (g) providing expert evidence and/or opinions.

DR A MOTSOLEDI, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH



Play Therapy Training South Africa
– The United Kingdom Society for Play and Creative Arts Therapies –
and Play Therapy International
Email: contact@playtherapytraining.co.za



Annex C

Government Gazette 12 Sept.2018

BOARD NOTICES • RAADSKENNISGEWINGS

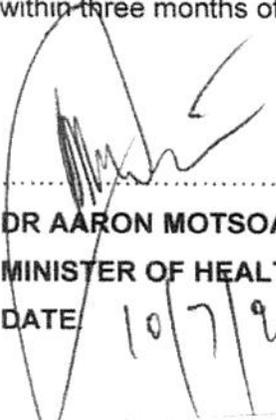
BOARD NOTICE 101 OF 2018

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

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF PSYCHOLOGY

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33 of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and the Professional Board for Psychology, to make the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed regulations to the Director-General of Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: Public Entities Governance, mihloti.mushwana@health.gov.za), within three months of the date of publication of this Notice.


.....
DR AARON MOTSOALEDI

MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE 10/7/2018

R 993 in
Gov Gazette
16. Sept. 2008

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations **“the Act”** means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning, unless the context indicates otherwise –

“The profession of psychology” means the profession of a person registered under the Act as a psychologist, psychometrist, registered counsellor, psycho technician, or in any other category of registration as may be established by the Board; and

Acts of different categories of psychology

2. The acts in the second column of the Table shall be deemed to be performed by the psychological category indicated in the first column parallel to the acts:-

CATEGORY	ACTS
(a) Clinical Psychologist	(i) providing comprehensive bio-psycho-social healthcare across the lifespan;
	(ii) assessment, diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of mild to severe and complex psychological problems and health disorders; and
	(iii) delivering a range of therapeutic interventions with demonstrated effectiveness in treating mental, behavioural, cognitive and health disorders.
(b) Counselling Psychologist	(i) promoting the personal, social, educational and career functioning, and well-being of individuals, couples, families, groups, and communities;

CATEGORY	ACTS
	<p>(ii) psychological assessment, diagnosis, and case formulation; and</p> <p>(iii) intervening through therapeutic interventions to prevent and alleviate life challenges, including maladjustment, bereavement, trauma, psychological crises, and mental.</p>
(c) Educational Psychologist	<p>(i) promoting the learning, academic performance, and the behavioural, social, emotional and career development of learners of all ages, especially children and young people in school, educational, family and related contexts;</p> <p>(ii) psychological and educational assessment, diagnosis, formulation and intervention; and</p> <p>(iii) working directly with learners, parents, families, educators and other persons who teach and care for learners, to address learning difficulties, social and emotional problems, disability and mental health disorders affecting learners.</p>
(d) Industrial Psychologist	<p>(i) enhancing the behaviour and functioning of people, groups, and organisations to assist people pursuing meaningful and enriching work, by applying psychological principles in the assessment, diagnosis and intervention of human behaviour and to facilitate organisational flourishing; and</p>

CATEGORY	ACTS
	(ii) intervening in issues of critical relevance to organisations, including career development, talent management, coaching, recruitment and selection, training, organisational development, organisational ergonomics and design, change management, organisational ethics, performance, potential, behavioural economics, wellness, occupational stress management and work-life balance.
(e) Research Psychologist	<p>(i) Conducting scientific psychological research;</p> <p>(ii) Development of evaluation procedures, including psychometric instruments particularly for the South African context; and</p> <p>(iii) Development, evaluation and monitoring of psychological research methods, theory, policy, and practice.</p>
(f) Neuropsychologist	<p>(i) Assessment, diagnosis, and evaluation of persons of all ages with neuropsychological disorders; and</p> <p>(ii) Rehabilitation of such persons.</p>
(g) Psychometrist	<p>(i) Performing psychometric assessments in a variety of contexts;</p> <p>(ii) Administering, scoring, interpreting, report-writing and providing feedback based on</p>

CATEGORY	ACTS
	<p>psychometric assessments; and</p> <p>(iii) Contributing to the development of psychological tests and procedures particularly for the South African context.</p>
(h) Registered Counsellor	<p>(i) Psychological screening and assessment for low intensity, short term psychological interventions with individuals, couples, families and groups, aiming at enhancing personal functioning in a variety of settings; and</p>
	<p>(ii) Promoting psychological wellbeing, including prevention particularly in underserved communities.</p>

Prohibition of the performance of psychological acts by unregistered persons

3. (1) No person shall perform any act deemed to be an act pertaining to the profession of psychology unless he or she is registered in terms of the Act in the relevant registration category of psychology.
- (2) A person who contravenes regulation 3(a) shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

Repeal

4. The Regulations defining the scope of the profession of psychology as published under Government Notice No. R. 993 in *Government Gazette* No. 31433 of 16 September 2008 are hereby repealed.

Title

5. These Regulations shall be called Regulations Defining the Scope of Profession of Psychology, 2018



Play Therapy Training South Africa
– The United Kingdom Society for Play and Creative Arts Therapies –
and Play Therapy International
Email: contact@playtherapytraining.co.za



Annex D

HPCSA letter 7 Nov.2019

PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY

Department: Executive Company Secretariat
Designation: Committee Coordinator
Date: 7 November 2019

Dear Practitioner,

OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW OF THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE BY THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY

On 13 September 2019, Dr Z L Mkhize, Minister of Health, issued a notice (Government Gazette No 1169), that after considering public comments received for the proposed Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Psychology, published under Government Notice No. R. 101 in Government Gazette No. 41900 of 12 September 2018, not to proceed with the proposed Regulations. The notice further stipulated that the Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Psychology published under Government Notice No R. 993 in Government Gazette of 16 September 2008 remained in force.

The notice by the Minister was issued in response to the 2011 Amendment Regulations being declared invalid on procedural grounds by the Western Cape High Court in November 2016. However, the declaration of invalidity was suspended for a period of 24 months to allow the then Minister of Health to promulgate new regulations. This implied that the 2011 Amendment Regulation was still effective for the duration of the 24- month period or until the Minister promulgated new Regulations.

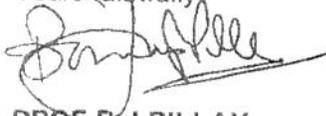
Following an extensive review process and having considered all comments and factors (see the HPCSA website for details), the Board resolved to advise the Minister not to proceed with the promulgation of the Regulations defining the Scope of the (various categories in the) Profession of Psychology.

The repeal of the 2011 regulations by the High Court in effect means that Regulation R704 of 11 September 2011 falls away. Regulation 993 of 16 September 2008 remained in place protecting the psychological acts that only registered psychology practitioners may perform.

Practitioners are still required to perform any psychological act and practice according to the specific category or level of qualification in which they are registered. Rule 21 of the Ethical Rules of Conduct

for Practitioners Registered under the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974 is used by practitioners to guide their professional acts in accordance with the education and training standards and competencies as contained in the Minimum Standards for the Education and Training of the different categories of psychological practitioners, which are also reflected on the Website of the Board.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. J. Pillay', written over a horizontal line.

PROF B J PILLAY

CHAIRPERSON OF THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY



Play Therapy Training South Africa
– The United Kingdom Society for Play and Creative Arts Therapies –
and Play Therapy International
Email: contact@playtherapytraining.co.za



Annex E

ASCHP Letter



Association for Supportive Counsellors
& Holistic Practitioners NPC
Reg no: 2012/221416/08
SAQA recognized professional body (ID 984)
with NQF registered designations

Portion 58 of Farm JR 286
Boekenhoutskloofdrift, Cullinan
1000
PostNet Suite 262 P/Bag X504
Sinoville 0129
Tel: 082 907 4327 / 012 111 9002
Fax: 0866325232
Email: info@aschp.net
Web: www.aschp.net

The Director training
PTISA
Email: PTI.TrainingSA@gmail.com

Dear Sir/Madam

We at the professional body for wellness orientated counsellors have noted that you refer many of your candidates to our office for registration. We firstly wish to express our sincere appreciation for this. We welcome partnerships and in turn can refer prospective students to you who may be interested in Play Therapy courses.

We just need to also put on record that, as you probably know, 'Play Therapist' is not one of our NQF formal listed designations which implies that we cannot register applicants in such a designation. Some applicants were upset, as they were under the impression that it was an option. Please ensure that your students have the correct information to prevent further confusion.

The stance of the ASCHP is that members may make use of Play Therapy as modality but in terms of SAQA policy may not refer to themselves as Play Therapist as only the designated titles may be used. Example:

Ann Green, ASCHP recognised Specialist Wellness Counsellor
Number: SWC 22/123
Area of specialization: Play therapy

Please be free to discuss any uncertainty with us.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Herholdt', written over the 'Kind regards' text.

Dr. Liezl Herholdt
CEO