
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 Pillay', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PROF B J PILLAY

CHAIRPERSON OF THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY