

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

## REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF PSYCHOLOGY

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**GN R704**                      **GG 34581**                      **2/9/2011**

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

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#### 1. Definitions

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.

#### 2. Scope of the profession

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;
- (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.

#### **5. Registration a prerequisite to practice**

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.

#### **6. Repeal**

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 R.1862, R.1863 and R.1864 of 16 September 1977 are hereby repealed.

**(Signed)**

**M E TSHABALALA MSIMANG  
MINISTER OF HEALTH**

## **ANNEXURE**

1. Scope of practice of registered counsellors
2. Scope of practice of psychometrists
3. Scope of practice of clinical psychologists
4. Scope of practice of counselling psychologists
5. Scope of practice of educational psychologists
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### **1. Scope of practice of registered counsellors**

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.

### **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 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.

### **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 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.

#### **4. Scope of practice of counselling psychologists**

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.

## **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 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.

## **6. Scope of practice of research psychologist**

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.

## **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 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.

## **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 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.

## **9. Scope of practice of forensic psychology**

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.

[Annexure inserted by GN R704/2011]