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**GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

NO. R. 1304

21 OCTOBER 2016

**SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS ACT, 1978  
(ACT NO. 110 OF 1978)****CALL FOR COMMENTS ON REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE  
REGISTRATION OF A SPECIALITY IN CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK**

I, Bathabile Olive Dlamini, Minister of Social Development, intend to make the Regulations in terms of section 17C(2)(a)(ii) and 28(1) (ii) of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978, as set out in the schedule. Interested persons or organizations are hereby invited to submit written comments on the draft regulations within 30 calendar days from the date of publication. Comments must be forwarded for the attention of Ms Galeboe Rapoo, by:

**Post to:**

The South African Council for Social Service Professions  
Private Bag X12  
Gezina  
0031;

**(b) Hand to:**

The South African Council for Social Service Professions  
37 Annie Botha Avenue  
Riviera

PRETORIA

0084;

**(c) Fax to:**

+27 (0)12 356 8400; and

**(d) By email to:**

actingregistrar@sacssp.co.za

**Ms BO DLAMINI, MP**

**MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE:**

## SCHEDULE

### 1. Definitions

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 a cross-cutting area of specialisation, which requires advanced therapeutic competence to intervene in the mental health and other psychosocial consequences of psychiatric, health and other life challenges ;

**"mental health status"** means the level of mental well-being of an individual as affected by physical, social and psychological factors and which may result in a psychiatric diagnosis, as defined in the Mental Health Care Act, 2002, (Act No. 17 of 2002);

**"mental illness"** means a positive diagnosis of a mental health related illness in terms of accepted diagnostic criteria made by a mental health practitioner authorised to make such a diagnosis, as defined in the Mental Health Care Act, 2002 (Act No. 17 of 2002);

**"mental health care practitioner"** means a psychiatrist or medical practitioner or a nurse, occupational therapist, psychologist or social worker who has been trained to provide prescribed mental

health care, treatment and rehabilitation services, as defined in the Mental Health Care Act, 2002, (Act No. 17 of 2002);

**“professional board”** means the professional board for social work;

**“SACSSP”** means South African Council for Social Service Professions; and

**“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 underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge.

## **2. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF A SPECIALITY CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK**

(1) The Professional Board shall on application register a speciality in clinical social work, where a social worker has -

- (a) a recognised qualification in social work and is registered as a social worker with the SACSSP; and
- (b) an appropriate Master’s degree approved by the Council related to social work in health care, plus at least two years appropriate and evidence based practical experience within the scope of health social work services; or
- (c) an appropriate post graduate diploma or certificate in social work in health care approved by the council, plus

three years appropriate and evidence based practical experience within the scope of health social work services; or

- (d) five years appropriate and evidence based practical experience within the scope of health social work services; provided that the applicant demonstrates expertise in social work in health care by meeting the assessment criteria of the Council for the purpose of determining whether the social worker concerned is competent to practice health social work.

(2) Social Workers who have registered as specialists should adhere to the policy of the SACSSP regarding Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and should ensure that the CPD 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 systemic, 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) intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary consultative and collaborative practice and appropriate referrals.

### **3. CONDITIONS FOR PRACTISING AS A CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK**

**(1)** A social worker who has complied with the requirements referred to in regulation 2, may practise the profession of social work in respect of a speciality in clinical social work subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The applicant must pay the prescribed registration fee relating to the registration of the speciality;
- (b) The social worker may call himself or herself a "clinical social worker", and may display the title in public.

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

(3) A social worker who has registered a speciality in 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 who wishes to obtain registration as a specialist in clinical social work, may obtain such experience under the supervision of a specialist social worker registered as such with the SACSSP.

#### **4. APPLICATION FOR REGISTERING A SPECIALITY IN CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK**

(1) Application for the registration of a speciality in social work shall be made on a form obtainable from the Council.

(2) Such application form shall be accompanied by –

- (a) proof of registration as a social worker with the Council;
- (b) certified copies of documentary proof of the experience referred to in regulation 2(c) and (d);
- (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)(a).

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

#### **5. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

(1) A social worker who has registered a speciality in clinical social work may affix the designation “registered clinical social worker (RCSW)” after his or her name;

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

(3) A social worker who has registered a speciality 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.

## **6. Short title and commencement**

These Regulations are called the Regulations Relating to the Registration of a Speciality in Clinical Social Work, 2016 and shall come into operation on the date of publication thereof.

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