



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

GENERAL NOTICE 4 of 2020

REF: 3/7/6/1/4

15 April 2020

NOTICE TO:

ALL SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONALS (*social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers, student social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers and student child and youth care workers*)

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND RISK IN RELATION TO SOCIAL MEDIA USE

Many social media tools are available for social service professionals including social networking platforms to improve or enhance professional networking and education. However, they also present potential risks to social service professionals, their clients and the profession. Distribution of inaccurate, unverified and poor-quality information; inappropriate photos, are some of the things that damage the professional image, breach client's privacy, violation and licensing or legal issues.

It has come to the attention of Council that there is a Facebook group for child and youth care workers that has a membership of approximately 6000 users who at some point during the end of March 2020 shared and distributed child pornography material. These act of sharing and distributing children's photos is illegal and cannot be tolerated amongst licensed practitioners who are supposed to protect children and their Rights at all times.

Council is urging social service professionals to always be vigilant on social media platforms and to refrain from participating in activities that further infringes the Rights and privacy of children. If you are caught continuing to participate in distribution of illegal and harmful content, know that your actions may lead to your license to practice being revoked and you may never be allowed to work in children's spaces or as a child and youth care worker.

ISSUED BY: REGISTRAR, Ms Langi LC Malamba