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CONTENTS • INHOUD

No.

*Page
No. Gazette
 No.*

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

Social Development, Department of

Government Notice

R. 15	Social Service Professions Act (110/1978): Regulations relating to the registration of a speciality in occupational social work	3	32886
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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

No. R. 15

22 January 2010

SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS ACT, 1978

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF A SPECIALITY IN OCCUPATIONAL SOCIAL WORK

The Minister of Social Development has, in terms of section 28(1)(gA) of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act 110 of 1978), on the recommendation of the South African Council for Social Service Professions, made the regulations set out in the Schedule hereto.

SCHEDULE

DEFINITIONS

1. In these regulations "the Act" means the Social Service Professions Act, 1978, (Act No. 110 of 1978), and any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have such meaning and, unless the context otherwise indicates –

"client systems" means the following systems to whom occupational social work services are directed :

- (a) Employees as part of the work system as well as their family systems;
- (b) the employing organisation; and
- (c) communities with which the employing organisation has operational or geographical links;

"employing organisation" means any organisation or state department who employs an occupational social worker;

"occupational social work" means a specialised field of social work practice which addresses the human and social needs of the work community within a developmental approach through a variety of interventions which aim to foster optimal adaptation between individuals and their environment;

"occupational social work services" means services pertaining to –

- (a) work-focussed assessment by assessing the needs or problems of various client systems in the workplace and the reciprocal relationship between them;
- (b) the assessment of the interface and impact of the employing organisation in the community in which the workplace functions;
- (c) work-focussed interventions on individuals, groups, employing organisations and community levels;
- (d) employing organisation and community interventions to ensure a social responsible employing organisation;
- (e) work-family interventions to promote family wellness in relation to the impact of employment;
- (f) the promotion of a culture in the work place to enhance human rights practice, social justice and productivity; and
- (g) work-focussed policy and programme development;

“social work”, for purposes of these regulations, means the promotion by a social worker of social change, problem-solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance the well-being of the client systems through utilising theories of human behaviour and social systems, intervening at the point where people interact with their environment; and

“social worker” means a person registered in terms of section 17 of the Act.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF A SPECIALITY IN OCCUPATIONAL SOCIAL WORK

2. The Council shall on application register a speciality in occupational social work where a social worker has—
- (a) a recognised qualification in social work and is registered as a social worker with the Council; and
 - (b) an appropriate Master’s degree approved by the Council related to occupational social work, plus at least two years appropriate and evidence-based practical experience within the scope of occupational social work services; or
 - (c) an appropriate post graduate diploma or certificate in occupational social work approved by the Council, plus three years appropriate and evidence-based practical experience within the scope of occupational social work services; or
 - (d) five years appropriate and evidence-based practical experience within the scope of occupational social work services: Provided that the applicant demonstrates expertise in occupational social work by meeting the assessment criteria of the Council for the purpose of determining whether

the social worker concerned is competent to practice occupational social work.

CONDITIONS FOR THE PRACTISING OF A SPECIALITY IN OCCUPATIONAL WORK

3. A social worker who has complied with the requirements referred to in regulation 2 may in terms of section 17 of the Act practise the profession of social work in respect of a speciality in occupational social work subject to the following conditions:
- (a) The social worker must pay the registration fee of R128.00 relating to the registration of the speciality as well as the annual fee of R158.00 for the speciality payable each year; and
 - (b) In the case of a social worker applying for registration of a speciality in terms of regulation 2(d) an assessment fee of R640.00 must be paid.

APPLICATION FOR REGISTERING A SPECIALITY IN OCCUPATIONAL SOCIAL WORK

4. (1) Application for the registration of a speciality in occupational social work shall be made on a form obtainable from the Council.
- (2) Such application form shall be accompanied by –
- (a) a certified copy of your registration certificate issued by the Council, as well as proof of registration as a social worker with the council;
 - (b) a certified copy of documentary proof of the experience referred to in regulation 2;
 - (c) certified copies of documentary proof of qualifications obtained, referred to in regulation 2; and
 - (d) documentary proof of payment of the registration fee, annual fee and assessment fee (if applicable) referred to in regulation 3.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

5. (1) A social worker who has registered a speciality in occupational social work may affix the designation “specialist in occupational social work (SIOSW)” after his or her name.

(2) No person may call him- or herself an occupational social worker without having registered a speciality in occupational social work with the Council.

(3) A social worker who has registered a speciality in occupational social work shall display conspicuously in his or her office the registration certificate issued to him or her in terms of the Act.

(4) A social worker who has registered a speciality in occupational social work is not excluded from practising social work within a generic context.

(5) A social worker who does not have the required experience in occupational social work and who wishes to obtain registration as a specialist in occupational social work, may obtain such experience under the supervision of an occupational social worker registered as such with the SACSSP.

COMMENCEMENT

6. These regulations shall come into operation on the date of publication thereof.

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