



# **SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS**

## **GENERAL NOTICE 9 OF 2021**

REF: 3/7/6/1/9

9 September 2021

### **NOTICE TO:**

1. All registered social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers, student social auxiliary work learners, child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers and student child and youth care workers
2. Higher education and training institutions
3. Employers of social service professionals

### **VACCINATION ROUND TABLE: "THE ETHICAL DILEMMA-RIGHTS OF AN EMPLOYEE VS EMPLOYER'S/ THE PUBLIC! IMPLICATIONS FOR REFUSAL TO VACCINATE"**

1. The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) supported the National Department of Social Development in advocating for the prioritization of social service professionals to be included in the essential service category to receive vaccinations.
2. Subsequent to the successful launch of the Social Development Portfolio (DSD, SACSSP, SASSA, NDA) vaccination roll out plan, led by the Minister of Social Development Ms Lindiwe Zulu, the SACSSP has been overwhelmed with requests for guidance to the sector relating to registered practitioners or employees who refuse to vaccinate for personal reasons.
3. The SACSSP finds itself limited in crafting a cogent response to guide the social service sector on the issue of choice, except to encourage practitioners to join the queues and be vaccinated.
4. It is for the above reason(s) that the Transformation Committee of Council has deemed it fit to host a Vaccination Hesitancy Webinar Roundtable with key knowledgeable stakeholders, which will assist the employers of all social service professionals in both NPO/NGO-, public and private sectors, including the Department of Social Development Portfolio management to make informed decisions when handling employees or subordinates who refuse to vaccinate.
5. The Webinar will discuss the following issue(s):
  - a) The right to vaccinate: a legal and religious perspective
  - b) The rights of employees vs safety of service end users and fellow colleagues
  - c) Myths about vaccination
  - d) Vaccination safety
  - e) Mechanisms that can be put in place to ensure safety for all
  - f) Options available to the employee/employer
  - g) Provisions of the law: Is dismissal of employees an option?
6. The Webinar is planned as follows:

Date: 13 September 2021  
Time: 9h00-14h30  
Venue: MS-Teams (a YouTube link will be shared before the start of the Webinar)
7. We look forward to a robust engagement on this sensitive issue so that guidance and viable options can be shared with social service professionals and employers of social service professionals.

**ISSUED BY:** REGISTRAR: Ms Langi LC Malamba