SOUTH AFRICAN
COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

GENERAL NOTICE 11 of 2026

REF: 3/7/6/1/11 11 November 2026

NOTICE TO:

1. All social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers, student social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student child and youth care workers and student auxiliary child and youth care workers
2. Training institutions providing qualifications in social work, social auxiliary work, child and youth care work and auxiliary child and youth care work
3. Employers of social service professionals

UNEMPLOYED SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONALS: APPLICATION FOR THE EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYMENT OF ANNUAL FEES FOR 2027/2028

1. The purpose of this General Notice is to inform social service professionals (social workers, social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers and auxiliary child and youth care workers) of the measures put in place by the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) in support of those who are unemployed.

2. Social service professionals are reminded that regulation 3(b)(ii) of the *Regulations relating to the fees payable by social workers, child and youth care workers, social auxiliary workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student social workers and student child and youth care workers* (Government Notice No 7374 published in Government Gazette No 54519 of 17 April 2026) provides for unemployed social service professionals to be exempted from the payment of annual fees upon application as prescribed. The procedure to be followed and the associated conditions are explained in paragraphs 5 and 6.

3. Unemployed for the purpose of this General Notice and the provisions of the regulation 3(b)(ii) of the *Regulations* means a person registered with the SACSSP who is unemployed for three consecutive months or longer on the date of application nor has any form of regular income.

4. It is important to note that the exemption indicated in paragraph 2 as well as paragraph 3 *only applies to annual fees* and not registration fees. Registration fees, which is a once-off payment upon registration with the SACSSP, need to be paid and submitted together with supporting documents to be registered. See the *Regulations relating to the fees payable by social workers, child and youth care workers, social auxiliary workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student social workers and student child and youth care workers.* The application form is available on the SACSSP website www.sacssp.co.za on this link FORM RR.5B.

5. Application for exemption from payment of annual fees by unemployed social service professionals

5.1 Social service professionals *already registered* with the SACSSP

5.1.1 A social worker, social auxiliary worker, child and youth care worker and/or auxiliary child and youth care worker who has been registered with the SACSSP in terms of sections 17, 18 and 18A of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978, may apply in writing to the SACSSP to be exempted from payment of annual fees for the next financial year (2027/2028) in terms of regulation 3(b)(ii) of the *Regulations relating to the fees payable by social workers, child and youth care workers, social auxiliary workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student social workers and student child and youth care workers*, subject to the following conditions:

(a) He or she must apply *in writing* using the prescribed form as per (regulation 3(b)(ii)).

(b) He or she must be *unemployed for a period of three consecutive months or longer* on the date that he or she submit the application to be exempted from the payment of annual fees.

(c) He or she must provide a *written motivation* (completed by himself or herself) to support the application (FORM RR.5B).

(d) He or she must attach to the application *an affidavit completed at the South African Police Service (SAPS)* stating that he or she is not employed and has no regular income.

(e) In the case where person applying to be exempted from the payment of annual fees *is still owing historic annual fees (not paid in previous years due to unemployment)* he or she must indicate it clearly in both Annexure A and Annexure B (affidavit) to FORM RR.5B. Please see paragraph 3 above on what is required.

(f) Written proof of all efforts made to apply for employment and that such applications were not successful within a period of three to six months prior to the date of application to be exempted from the payment of annual fees. This may include proof of applications for employment submitted to potential employers; receipt of feedback from employers or similar.

(i) For person applying who **is not** *owing historic annual fees (not paid in previous years due to unemployment)*, including a person who had previously applied and was exempted from the payment of annual fees, must submit a recent proof of exemption and attach it on the application form (FORM RR.5B).

(ii) For person applying who is *owing historic annual fees (not paid in previous years due to unemployment)* must submit proof (affidavit) stating the number of years owing historic annual fees due to unemployment and attach it on the application form (FORM RR.5B) The due date to submit the application is **30 November 2026 (16h00)**.

5.1.2 Applicants must ensure that the application form (FORM RR.5B) is completed in full and correctly, and that all annexures are attached as prescribed. Incomplete application forms and/or Annexures will not be rejected, which may cause delays. Please use the guidance and check list provided on the application form.

5.1.3 There is no fee payable for an application to be exempted from the payment of annual fees.

5.1.4 Exemption from the payment of annual fees will only be considered if:

(a) the annual fees for previous year(s) were paid, subject to paragraph 3 of this General Notice;
(b) the applicant deposes and submit an affidavit confirming that he was unemployed during the period he or she was unable to pay the annual fee(s); or
(c) if exemption for the payment of annual fees were granted for the 2026/2027 financial year.

5.1.5 Each application will be considered on its own merit and the outcome of the assessment of the application will be communicated in writing to each applicant by no later than ***30 January 2027***. Please note:

(a) If application for the exemption from the payment of annual fees is approved, the applicant will receive the following:

(i) Letter under the signature of the Registrar or designated official of the SACSSP indicating that exemption from the payment of annual fees was granted for the next financial year (2027/2028) and that such letter substitutes the "receipt" that is issued when annual fees are paid and carries the same value. As such he or she remains registered with the SACSSP and in good standing. See paragraph 6 for more information.

(ii) *Practice Card*, indicating that you are exempted from paying the annual fee. See paragraph 6 for more details.

(b) If an application for the exemption from the payment of annual fees is rejected, the applicant will be informed of such rejection with reasons and will be required to pay his or her annual fees by no later than 31 March 2027 as to remain registered with the SACSSP.

5.1.6 The exemption from the payment of annual fees for unemployed social service professionals is for the full amount of the annual fee payable for the financial year (2027/2028) and it is applied for as set out in *Regulations relating to the fees payable by social workers, child and youth care workers, social auxiliary workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student social workers and student child and youth care workers*, subject to regulation 3(c)(ii).

5.2 Social service professionals registering with the SACSSP for the first time

5.2.1 In the case where a social worker, social auxiliary worker, child and youth care worker and/or auxiliary child and youth care worker has never been registered with the SACSSP after he or she qualified with the prescribed qualification that allows him or her to be registered in terms sections 17, 18 and 18A of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978, all the provisions as set out in paragraph 5.1 applies, subject to the provisions in paragraphs 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 below:

5.2.2 He or she must apply to be registered in terms of provisions of the Act and respective Regulations[1] on the prescribed form (available on the SACSSP's website or online), and the once-off registration fee must be paid in full.

[1] *Regulations regarding the registration of social workers* (Government Notice No. R. 101 published in Government Gazette No. 34020 of 18 February 2011); *Regulations regarding the registration of social auxiliary workers and the holding of disciplinary inquiries* (Government Notice No. R. 103 published in Government Gazette No. 34020 of 18 February 2011); and *Regulations for child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers and student child and youth care workers* (Government Notice No. 838 published in Government Gazette No. 38135 of 31 October 2014)

5.2.3 If he or she meets the criteria as set out in the *Regulations,* he or she must at the same time complete FORM RR.5B in full (including all Annexures) and submit with the application for registration (see paragraph 5.2.2).

6. Conditions that apply while exempted from the payment of annual fees

6.1 A social service professional who has been exempted from the payment of annual fees is not allowed as contemplated in regulation 3(c)(ii) to practice the profession he or she is registered in any form while being exempted from the payment of annual fees. This is a safeguard to avoid having those people who applied for exemption due to unemployment to continue practicing without paying the annual fee. In this regard:

6.1.1 The *Practice Card* will indicate annual fee exempted for the above reasons. However, a new *Practice Card* will be issued when a social service professional who has been exempted from paying annual fees re-enters the profession.

6.1.2 A social service professional who has been exempted from paying annual fees remains in good standing and registered with the SACSSP with the same status as a person who has paid his or annual fees. Thus, the provisions of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 as well as the Regulations and Rules thereto continues to apply to the registered social service professional.

6.1.3 The exemption from the payment of annual fees is only valid for the specific financial year (2027/2028) following the date of approval of application, and a new application must be submitted annually using the FORM RR.5B, should the reasons for his or her application continue to exist by 1 November for the continued exemption from payment of annual fees for the following financial year to be considered so as to remain registered and in good standing with the SACSSP.

6.2 In the case where a registered social service professional gets full-time or part-time employed, inclusive of being self-employed, as a social worker, social auxiliary worker, child and youth care worker and/or auxiliary child and youth care worker during the financial year that he or she was exempted from the payment of annual fees, the exemption falls away, and he or she is required in terms of regulation 3(c)(ii) of the *Regulations*:

(a) to inform the SACSSP that he or she will be re-entering into the profession (it is recommended that this be done as soon as he or she receives and signs an offer of employment) and;

(b) pay within 30 days after the first date of such employment the annual fee for that financial year (2027/2028).

6.3 Upon receipt of the notification and payment of the annual fee as required in terms of regulation 3(c)(ii), the SACSSP will issue a Practice Card indicating that he or she is a practising social service professional.

7. IMPORTANT NOTE: Employers of social service professionals

7.1 Employers' attention is drawn to the content of paragraph 7.2 in relation to registered unemployed social workers, social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers and auxiliary child and youth care workers (social service professionals) who have been exempted from the payment of annual fees in terms of regulation 3(b)(ii) of the *Regulations relating to the fees payable by social workers, child and youth care workers, social auxiliary workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student social workers and student child and youth care workers*.

7.2 An unemployed social service professional who has been exempted from the payment of annual fees:

(a) is still a registered social service professional with the SACSSP in terms of sections 17, 18 and 18A of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 and is in good standing as such;

(b) will not be able to (nor should he or she be required) provide proof (receipt) of payment of annual fees to the SACSSP, as he or she has been exempted from such payment. The letter and the practice card granting such exemption for a financial year has equal status in terms of his or her registration status and good standing as a receipt of payment of annual fees (for those not exempted);

(c) will have a Practice Card indicating annual fee exempted for the purpose of regulation 3(c)(ii) of the *Regulations*, which will be replaced with new practice card upon re-entry into his or her profession as a registered social service professional; and

(d) is required in terms of regulation 3(c)(ii) of the *Regulations* to inform the SACSSP in writing of his or her re-entry into the profession he or she is registered for, and pay within 30 days after the first day of such employment the outstanding annual fees for that financial year, upon which the SACSSP will issue a receipt and a revised Practice Card.

7.3 Employers' cooperation in this regard is appreciated.

8. SACSSP additional support to unemployed social service professionals

8.1 The SACSSP has also been providing the following "additional" support that may benefit unemployed social service professionals.

8.2 Unemployed social service professionals can advertise on some of the SACSSP's platforms that they are looking for employment. The Rate Card provides:

(a) Social service professionals registered with the SACSSP who are unemployed or not employed in the professional capacity that they are registered for, qualify for one *free* advertisement on the SACSSP's Facebook page (option F2 on Rate Card).

(b) A jobseeker who was not employed since his or her first free advertisement (above) may request to advertise for *free* more than one time, provided that at least 6 weeks lapse between advertisements, and up to a maximum of four free advertisements per calendar year.

8.3 Free advertisement does not apply to jobseekers who are already employed as a social service professional, but who seek other work opportunities.

9. Application for exemption from payment of annual fees by social service professionals who are not practicing due to health reasons or personal reasons

9.1 A registered professional who does not practice the profession because of *health reasons* should apply for 100% exemption. An application needs to be made in the FORM RR.5A: *regulation 3(b)(i)*.

9.2 A registered professional who is *not practising* his or her profession but wishes to remain registered with the SACSSP should apply for 50% exemption. An application needs to be made in the FORM RR.5C*: regulation 3(c)(i)*.

10. **Application for exemption from payment of annual fees by social service professionals who have attained the age of 65 years**

10.1 A registered professional who has *attained the age of 65 years must apply for 100% exemption*. An application needs to be made in the FORM RR 4: *regulation 3(a)*.

11. Applications for the exemption from paying annual fees for the 2027/2028 financial year must be submitted to the SACSSP by no later than **30 November 2026** to Registrations@sacssp.co.za. Late applications will not be considered.

ISSUED BY: ACTING REGISTRAR, Ms Pertunia Nkosi