



Saskatchewan College of Psychologists

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Membership Advisory

Term of Membership in the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists

Background

The Council of Saskatchewan College of Psychologists (SCP) recently adopted a policy regarding the length of the term that one is considered a member of the College. Perhaps more simply put “when does one cease to be a member?” The need for a policy arose out of issues facing the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) in carrying out their investigatory duties for the College. As the SCP has jurisdiction only over members of the College, the question arose as to whether a member can resign from the College to avoid an investigation into their conduct, and/or disciplinary action.

Membership vs. Annual License

In developing its policy Council differentiated between membership and an annual license to practice. The College is a regulatory body and not a fraternal organization. As such, membership is essentially mandatory for those who wish to call themselves a psychologist and to practice psychology in the Province of Saskatchewan. Membership in the College therefore is ongoing. Once one is registered they become a member and remain a member until such time that Council receives and accepts their resignation, or until such time that they are discharged from the College as part of a disciplinary action. Whether or not there are sufficient grounds to undertake disciplinary action, Council continues to have jurisdiction over the member.

An annual license is granted once the yearly fee is paid to the College. The license entitles a member to use the title of “psychologist” and to diagnose (and transmit diagnoses) if the member has the APE designation. Non-payment of annual fees results in removal from the Register, but not removal from the membership list. When this occurs the member is considered “no longer in good standing”, and cannot use the title of “psychologist” or diagnose if they have APE. Once the annual fee and consequent late fees are paid in full, a member will revert back to being in “good standing” provided that there are no outstanding disciplinary issues. The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists continues to have jurisdiction over members who are not in good standing.

Membership and the MRA

Council also endorses the position of the Canadian Regulators that under the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) a member must remain a Full Practice member of Saskatchewan College of Psychologists in good standing until such time as they successfully complete all registration requirements and become Full Practice in the new jurisdiction to which they are moving.

Resignation from the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists

Resignation from the SCP requires the member to make a written request to the Registrar who will present the request to Council for a decision. Council will vote on whether to accept or reject the request for withdrawal from the College. The member will be informed by the Registrar in writing as to Council's decision. Accepted resignations will result in the member's name being removed from the Register, as well as the membership list of the College. The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists file on that member will be kept by the College, and that information can be accessed by other jurisdictions under the MRA if the individual applies for registration elsewhere. If the individual wishes to resume their membership in the future they will have to reapply for registration and their application will be treated by SCP as a new application.