

Psychological Services by Out of Province Practitioners to Clients Temporarily Relocated to Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists (SCP) has recently received inquiries from licensed Psychologists / Psychological Associates from other Canadian jurisdictions whose clients have returned to the province during the COVID-19 pandemic. In some cases, clients are experiencing considerable distress and may be at increased risk if their psychological services were to be interrupted. The Psychologists Act 1997 limits practice as a Psychologist in this province, to those licensed with SCP. Regulatory Bylaw 12.1 allows the College to consider emergency registration and licensure during at times such as this.

Under normal circumstances, those practicing telepsychology into the province who are not licensed with SCP would be viewed as conducting "unauthorized practice" and consideration would be given to whether there is a need for action. The SCP has given significant and careful consideration to the impact that the COVID19 pandemic has had on the mental health of many and it recognizes that it is important that this is taken into account in the case of public returning to Saskatchewan who were receiving mental health services in another provincial/territorial location. In light of the urgency of the COVID-19 situation, the College will not initiate an "unauthorized practice" action against an out of province practitioner provided they:

- Are registered/licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction at the time the services are provided;
- Practice only within their areas of competence and in keeping with any terms, limits and conditions on their license/certificate of registration;
- Provide the services to existing clients temporarily in Saskatchewan due to the COVID-19 situation;
- Determine it is clinically ill-advised to temporarily stop services and/or to transfer the service to a member of the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists.
- Out of province practitioners are asked to confirm their understanding and acceptance of the requirements listed above by notifying the College of their intention to provide telepsychology service to existing clients now located in Saskatchewan. Practitioners should email the College (skcp@sasktel.net) providing their name, the jurisdiction in which they are registered/licensed, and their registration/license number. While the College will endeavour to acknowledge receipt of this information, practitioners need not wait for confirmation before initiating service.

NOTE: The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists does not have the authority to authorize its members to practice in other jurisdictions. If members of the College have questions regarding the provision of telepsychology services into other jurisdictions based on their registration in Saskatchewan, they should contact the jurisdiction in question. It is our understanding that many other Canadian jurisdictions are taking steps to make this possible but the requirements, e.g., notifying the College; time limits on such services, etc., may vary among jurisdictions