



Republic of Namibia
Annotated Statutes

REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS SURVIVING IN TERMS OF

Health Professions Act 16 of 2024

section 95(10)

Regulations relating to Scope of Practice of Social Workers, Social Auxiliary Workers and Students

Government Notice 14 of 2011

(GG 4656)

came into force on date of publication: 23 February 2011

These regulations were made in terms of section 56 of the Social Work and Psychology Act 6 of 2004, which was repealed by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024. Pursuant to section 95(10) of the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024, they are deemed to have been made under that Act.

The Government Notice which publishes these regulations notes that they were made on the recommendation of the Social Work and Psychology Council of Namibia.

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

1. Definitions
 2. Scope of practice of a social worker
 3. Scope of practice of a social auxiliary worker
 4. Performing of professional acts by a student in the social work profession
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Definitions

1. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise indicates, a word or expression defined in the Act has that meaning, and -

“social auxiliary work” means the performing of social work on the instructions, and under the guidance and direct supervision and in support of a social worker;

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“social work” means the professional activity of helping individuals, couples, groups of persons and communities to enhance and restore their capacity for social functioning, and the creating of societal, emotional, mental and physiological conditions favourable to attaining this goal and includes the application of social theory, knowledge, methods, skills and ethics;

“student” means a student in social work; and

“the Act” means the Social Work and Psychology Act, 2004 (Act No. 6 of 2004).

**[The Social Work and Psychology Act 6 of 2004 has been
replaced by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024.]**

Scope of practice of a social worker

2. The scope of practice of a social worker consists of the counselling of, and the providing of therapy, guidance and resolutions for persons, couples, families, groups of persons or communities relating to or in aid of or the presenting of -

- (a) family problems, including marital problems, divorce, family violence, parenting issues and family therapy;
- (b) children, including adoptions, child abuse and neglect, adaptation problems at school, behavioural problems and career choices;
- (c) legal proceedings including -
 - (i) access to, guardianship and custodianship of children,
 - (ii) preparation for court procedures, and
 - (iii) vulnerable witnesses,
 and acting as expert witnesses at trials;
- (d) pregnancy, including baby dumping, concealment of birth, abortions and teenage pregnancy;
- (e) the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, both pre-testing and post-testing;
- (f) bereavement care;
- (g) employer and employee assistance programs, including substance abuse, the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome programs and conflict resolution;
- (h) geriatrics;
- (i) mental and emotional support for patients with chronic mental illnesses;
- (j) trauma and post traumatic stress syndrome;
- (k) substance abuse;

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- (l) social interactive difficulties, including adjustment to, or the inability to cope in, society, relationship problems and conflict between children, adults and neighbourhoods and wider communities;
- (m) suicide ideation;
- (n) stress and stress management;
- (o) crisis intervention;
- (p) advanced social work;
- (q) social group work with therapeutic and educational goals;
- (r) training and workshops;
- (s) public presentations;
- (t) policy writing;
- (u) professional report writing with diagnostic and evaluative information;
- (v) awareness raising of, and sensitisation of communities on social problems;
- (w) community development projects;
- (x) research projects relating to social work; and
- (y) social work management, including professional mentoring and continuing professional development of junior social workers, and organising and conducting of social work office.

Scope of practice of a social auxiliary worker

3. A social auxiliary worker may perform, on the instructions, and under the guidance and direct supervision and in support of a social worker, any of the acts prescribed by regulation 2 and delegated to him or her by that social worker.

Performing of professional acts by a student in the social work profession

4. A student in the social work profession may perform, on the instructions, and under the direct control, supervision and guidance of a social worker, any of the acts prescribed by regulation 2 and delegated to him or her by that social worker as part of his or her education, tuition and training.