



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 Clinical
Psychologists and Educational Psychologists**

Government Notice 30 of 2009

(GG 4218)

came into force on date of publication: 6 March 2009

as amended by

Government Notice 36 of 2021 (GG 7473)

came into force on date of publication: 3 March 2021

These regulations were made in terms of section 56 of the Social Work and Psychology Act 6 of 2004, which was repealed by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024.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 Notices which publish these regulations and amendments note 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 psychology
 3. Performing of professional acts by a student in the profession of psychology
 4. Performing of professional acts by intern-psychologist
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REGULATIONS
Health Professions Act 16 of 2024
Regulations relating to Scope of Practice of
Clinical Psychologists and Educational Psychologists

Definitions

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

“profession of psychology” means the profession of a clinical psychologist or the profession of an educational psychologist;

“psychologist” means a clinical psychologist or an educational psychologist; 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[The Social Work and Psychology Act 6 of 2004 has been
replaced by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024.]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 psychology

2. (1) The following acts are regarded to be acts specially pertaining to the practice of psychologists -

- (a) professionally assess, diagnose and treat psychological and mental ailments and disorders in humans, and disfunctions in human behaviour;

[The word “dysfunctions” is misspelt in the *Government Gazette*, as reproduced above.]

- (b) assist any person, groups of people, couples and families regarding personal well-being and relationships, work or professions or occupations, and mental health.

(2) For the purposes of subregulation (1) and of the application of the Act, a psychologist may perform the following acts -

- (a) psychological assessment and diagnosis of a patient, including -
 - (i) consultations regarding -
 - (aa) the mental status of the patient, including the emotional, intellectual and behavioural functioning, and exploring the thoughts, emotions and behaviour of a patient, and the tracing of the origins thereof;
 - (bb) the social, medical, educational, vocational and psychological history of the patient and his or her relatives or the people he or she associates with; and
 - (cc) referral related issues relevant to the patient;
 - (ii) the administering and interpretation of psychometric instruments, including measures of personality, psychopathology, intelligence, aptitude and neuropsychological functioning; and
 - (iii) the review of the records of the patients and the gathering of collateral information to aid the assessment of, and the case management relating to, the patient;

REGULATIONS
Health Professions Act 16 of 2024
Regulations relating to Scope of Practice of
Clinical Psychologists and Educational Psychologists

- (b) psychological intervention, including -
 - (i) the counselling of, and the conducting of psychotherapy relating to, a patient ranging from a fairly well-adjusted patient to a patient suffering from severe psychopathological and psychological distress or disorders, for the purpose of the developing of effective ways of controlling and coping therewith by the patient, including -
 - (aa) psychoanalysis and psychoanalytical psychotherapy;
 - (bb) behaviour therapy;
 - (cc) clinical hypnosis;
 - (dd) group psychotherapy;
 - (ee) family psychotherapy;
 - (ff) couple psychotherapy;
 - (gg) cognitive psychotherapy;
 - (hh) interpersonal psychotherapy;
 - (ii) systemic psychotherapy; and
 - (jj) brief psychotherapy; and
 - (ii) the assisting of a patient to implement changes and alleviate any distress or disorder referred to in subparagraph (i);
- (c) the career development of a patient, including -
 - (i) the assessing of, and the offering of services relating to, educational difficulties experienced by a patient; and
 - (ii) the assisting of a patient in the planning of his or her career;
- (d) the psycho-education of a patient, including -
 - (i) interviewing the relatives, teachers or colleagues of the patient to obtain relevant information relating to the patient; and
 - (ii) the provision of psycho-education relating to a specific condition suffered by a patient, and for the purpose of enhancing treatment outcomes and case management relating the patient;
- (e) the programme development relating to, and the evaluation of, a patient, including -
 - (i) the application of research skills to analyse the problems of a patient;
 - (ii) the designing of intervention strategies; and

REGULATIONS
Health Professions Act 16 of 2024
Regulations relating to Scope of Practice of
Clinical Psychologists and Educational Psychologists

- (iii) the monitoring and evaluation of programme outcomes in diverse settings;
- (f) the reporting on a patient, including -
 - (i) the drafting of a report on the condition of a patient and the submission of a report to a person practising a profession under the Act, to a legal practitioner, to a person practising a health or social service profession under any law relating to the practising of health and social services professions, or to any other person who requires the report; and
 - (ii) the giving, in a court of law, of expert evidence relating to the psychological assessment and diagnosis of a patient referred to in paragraph (a); and
- (g) the referral of a patient, for further assessment or intervention, to a person practising -
 - (i) a profession under the Act; or
 - (ii) a health or social service profession under any law; or
 - (iii) any other profession under any law, and who is able, or who may be able, in the opinion of the psychologist, to conduct that assessment or intervention.
- (3) The acts prescribed by subregulation (2) must be performed in specific areas concerning -
 - (a) mental disorders, including mental retardation, learning disorders and motor skills disorders, usually first diagnosed in infancy, childhood or adolescence;
 - (b) delirium, dementia and amnesic and other cognitive disorders;
 - (c) substance-related disorders;
 - (d) schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders;
 - (e) mood disorders;
 - (f) anxiety disorders;
 - (g) somatoform disorders;
 - (h) factitious disorders;
 - (i) dissociative disorders;
 - (j) sexual and gender identity disorders;
 - (k) eating disorders;
 - (l) sleep disorders;
 - (m) impulse-control disorders;

REGULATIONS
Health Professions Act 16 of 2024
Regulations relating to Scope of Practice of
Clinical Psychologists and Educational Psychologists

- (n) adjustment disorders;
- (o) personality disorders;
- (p) educational functioning disorders;
- (q) relationship issues revolving around communication, conflict, separation, divorce, parenting skills and similar psychological traumas, relating to couples, siblings, schools, work and the community; and
- (r) mental disorders due to a general medical condition.
- (4) The acts prescribe by this regulation must be performed by -
 - (a) a clinical psychologist in a clinical or a medical field or setting; and
 - (b) an educational psychologist in an educational field or setting.

Performing of professional acts by a student in the profession of psychology

3. A student in the profession of psychology may perform, as part of his or her education, tuition and training, and on the instructions, and under the direct supervision, of a clinical psychologist or an educational psychologist, as the case may be, any of the acts prescribed by regulation 2.

Performing of professional acts by intern-psychologist

4. An intern-psychologist may perform, as part of his or her training and on the instructions and under the direct supervision of a clinical psychologist or an educational psychologist, any of the acts prescribed by regulation 2.

[Regulation 4 is inserted by GN 36/2021.]