



AMENDMENTS TO STANDARDS OF PRACTICE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2010

As a result of amendments to the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998* respecting the use of the title “doctor” and amendments to the Registration Regulation (O.Reg. 383/00) made under the Act, By-law No. 73 of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers was recently passed. By-Law No. 73, which came into force on October 1, 2010, amends the Standards of Practice Handbook.

Please note the following amendments to the Standards of Practice Handbook, which are effective October 1, 2010:

Page 15: Interpretation 4.1.4 of the Standards of Practice Handbook is deleted and replaced with the following:

- 4.1.4 The record reflects the service provided and the identity of the service provider. Members use the designation “RSW”, or one of the titles “Social Worker” or “Registered Social Worker”, in the case of a social worker, or the designation “RSSW”, or one of the titles “Social Service Worker” or “Registered Social Service Worker”, in the case of a social service worker, and comply with any requirements set out in any applicable legislation, in documentation used in connection with their practice of social work or social service work, as the case may be.^{3.1}

Page 21: The Footnotes of Principle IV of the Standards of Practice Handbook are amended by adding the following Footnote 3.1 immediately after Footnote 3:

- 3.1 For example, the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998* sets out the conditions that must be met in order for a member of the College who holds an earned doctorate in social work, as defined in subsection 47.3(2) of the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act 1998*, to use the title “doctor”, a variation, abbreviation or an equivalent in another language (See also Footnotes 1 and 1.1 of Principle VII)

Principle VII: Advertising

Page 31: Interpretation 7.3 of the Standards of Practice Handbook is amended by deleting the references to Footnotes 1 and 2 and replacing them with references to Footnotes 1, 1.1 and 2.

Page 32: Footnote 1 of Principle VII of the Standards of Practice Handbook is amended by deleting clauses a), b) and c) and replacing them with the following:

- a) College members who are social workers identify themselves by using the designation “RSW”, or one of the titles “Social Worker” or “Registered Social Worker”, following their names. College members who are social service workers identify themselves by using the designation “RSSW”, or one of the titles “Social Service Worker” or “Registered Social Service Worker”, following their names. College members may add an optional one line description of the College member’s area of limited practice or specialty; or
- b) “RSW”, or “Social Worker” or “Registered Social Worker”, in the case of a social worker, or “RSSW”, “Social Service Worker” or “Registered Social Service Worker”, in the case of a social service worker, following the highest academic degree or diploma;
- c) where a College member holds an earned doctorate in social work, as defined in subsection 47.3(2) of the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998*, the member may use either, but not both, of i) or ii) as follows:
 - i) the degree in addition to the designation or title in either of clauses a) or b); or
 - ii) the title “Doctor” or “Dr.”, as a prefix, provided that it is followed by the member’s full name, and immediately followed by one of (A), (B) or (C), as follows:
 - (A) Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers together with RSW, in the case of a social worker, RSSW, in the case of a social service worker,
 - (B) social worker or registered social worker, or
 - (C) social service worker or registered social service worker; or
- c.1) where a College member does not hold an earned doctorate in social work, as defined in subsection 47.3(2) of the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998*, but does hold a doctoral degree, the member may use either, but not both, of i) or ii) as follows:
 - i) the degree, in addition to the designation or title in either of clauses a) or b); or
 - ii) the title “Doctor” or “Dr.”, as a prefix, in addition to the designation or title in either of clauses a) or b),

provided that the member may not use the title “Doctor”, a variation or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language in the course of providing or offering to provide, in Ontario, health care to individuals; or

Page 32: The Footnotes of Principle VII of the Standards of Practice Handbook are amended by adding the following Footnote 1.1 immediately after Footnote 1:

1.1 “Earned doctorate” means a doctoral degree in social work that is,

(a) granted by a post-secondary educational institution authorized in Ontario to grant the degree under an Act of the Assembly, including a person that is authorized to grant the degree pursuant to the consent of the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities under the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*,

(b) granted by a post-secondary educational institution in a Canadian province or territory other than Ontario and that is considered by the College to be equivalent to a doctoral degree described in clause (a), or

(c) granted by post-secondary educational institution located in a country other than Canada that is considered by the College to be equivalent to a doctoral degree described in clause (a). (Subsection 47.3(2) of the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998*).

Members are referred to the College’s “Policy respecting Earned Doctorates in Social Work under subsection 47.3(2) of the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998*”. This Policy describes the criteria that the College uses to determine whether a member holds an earned doctorate in social work, as defined in subsection 47.3(2) of the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998*.