

Received via Email by OACYC members in February 2017 – Identifying information removed

Dear CYCP,

Thank you for contacting our office. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services encourages any Child and Youth Care workers with questions regarding the scope of practice under the Psychotherapy Act, 2007 to contact the College of Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists (College). Contact information for the College is available on their website at <http://www.crpo.ca>.

The College is in the best position to determine whether the controlled act of psychotherapy includes the scope of Child and Youth Care worker practice, as defined by the Psychotherapy Act, 2007.

Although the Psychotherapy Act, 2007 was proclaimed on April 1, 2015, provisions of the Psychotherapy Act, 2007 related to the controlled act of psychotherapy have not been proclaimed into force. The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care is leading the work to proclaim provisions within the Psychotherapy Act, 2007 related to the controlled act of psychotherapy. In order to proclaim these provisions, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has requested the College to provide clarity on the definition of the controlled act of psychotherapy so that the intent and the implications are clearer.

The controlled act of psychotherapy is defined in legislation as follows: “Treating, by means of psychotherapy technique, delivered through a therapeutic relationship, an individual’s serious disorder of thought, cognition, mood, emotional regulation, perception or memory that may seriously impair the individual’s judgment, insight, behaviour, communication or social functioning.”

Until provisions related to the controlled act of psychotherapy are proclaimed, psychotherapy continues to remain in the public domain and anyone may continue to perform psychotherapy (including Child and Youth Care workers). The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care is working to proclaim the provisions related to the controlled act of psychotherapy during this calendar year.

Currently, there are provisions within the Psychotherapy Act, 2007 related to grandparenting. These provisions provide an opportunity for Ontario practitioners to be registered based on a portfolio of their education, training and experience. These grandparenting provisions will expire on March 31, 2017.

The regulation of health care professions, including Child and Youth Care workers, requires support through appropriate legislation (e.g. Regulated Health Professions Act (1991), Social Work and Social Service Work Act (1998)). To date, Ontario has not contemplated the regulation of Child and Youth Care Practitioners.

The Residential Services Review Panel provided advice and recommendations on ways we can achieve better outcomes for children and youth in residential settings. The panel made a number of recommendations regarding worker qualifications. One recommendation in particular called on the ministry to “move towards establishing child and youth care practice as the required credential for residential work over the course of the next ten years”.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is developing a blueprint for child and youth residential services reform which will focus on improving the quality of care for children and youth, enhancing oversight of licensed residential settings, including addressing the recommendations related to worker qualifications made by the Panel, and using data and analytics to inform decision-making at all levels.

We hope you find this information helpful. Please contact our office if you have any other concerns.

Kind regards,

MPP