DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NO. R. 2617 **14 October 2022**

SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS ACT, 1978 (Act No. 110 OF 1978)

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK

I, Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of Social Development, has on the recommendation of the South African Council for Social Service Professions and the Professional Board for Social Work, made the regulations in the Schedule.

MS L ZULU, (MP)
MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
DATE: 20/05/2022

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SCHEDULE

1. Definitions

In these Regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, shall have such meaning, unless the context indicates otherwise-

'Act' means the Social Service Professions Act 1978, (Act No. 110 of 1978) and includes the regulations; schedules and rules;

'client' means any person, who has either asked for or has sanctioned social work services, and who has entered into an agreement with a social worker;

'competence' means a level of performance demonstrating the effective application of specific knowledge, skills, judgement and personal attributes required to practise safely and ethically in a designated role and setting;

'scope of practice' means the parameters within which a social worker or social auxiliary worker may practice;

'social auxiliary worker' means a person registered in terms of section 18 of the Act; and

'social worker' means a person registered in terms of section 17 of the Act;

2. Scope of social work

(1) The following acts fall within the scope of practice of the profession of social work:

(a) any function, power, duty or obligation conferred, assigned, or imposed by any Act of Parliament on a social worker;

(b) providing counselling, psychoeducational, supportive, treatment, evaluation, developmental, therapeutic and referral services to any person through the application of evidence based social work interventions;

(c) socio-legal issues in relation to social work interventions;

(d) assessing risks, social functioning and psychosocial aspects associated with any person;

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(e) provide prevention, early intervention, statutory, residential and alternative care, and reunification and aftercare services as part of continuum of interrelated interventions;

(f) formulate intervention plans, interventions, referring, monitoring and evaluating of clients;

(g) crisis intervention to provide support, protection and/or trauma counselling to clients who are vulnerable or are at risk;

(h) training, education and supervision of other registered social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social auxiliary worker and student social workers;

(i) perform social work assessments utilising assessment tools approved by the Professional Board for Social Work;

(j) facilitate the continuing competence of registered social workers, social auxiliary, student social auxiliary worker and student social workers through continuing professional development opportunities;

(k) case management;

(l) design, conduct, manage, report on, and supervising research into the theory and practice of social work in accordance with the Policy on the Course of Conduct, Code of Ethics and the Rules for Social Workers registered under the Act and accepted national and international ethical requirements for research;

(m) develop, contribute to, promote, influence, implement, analyse and evaluate policies aimed at improving social conditions, social change, equality and social justice based on social work theory and research;

(n) advocacy in relation to social inequalities, social justice and human rights to improve social work outcomes for individuals, groups and communities and long terms sustainable social development;

(o) community based care and capacity building

(p) providing services to challenge and change all forms of discriminatory and oppressive social structures, particularly those related to class, race and gender; or

(q) providing expert evidence and/or opinions.

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(2) A student social worker may perform, on the instructions and under under the direct control, supervision and guidance of a social worker, any of the acts prescribed in sub-regulation (1), and delegated to him or her by that social worker as part of his or her education and training guided by Council approved norms and standards for practice experience.

3. Scope of practice of social auxiliary worker

(1) A social auxiliary worker works together with a social worker to achieve the aims of social work in providing social care focusing on the primary needs of clients.

(2) A social auxiliary worker may perform under the guidance and direct supervision of a social worker on any of the following –

(a) prevention, education and development programmes which include life skills education, economic empowerment, managing stress and conflict, preparation for the different stages of the life cycle, recreation programmes for people at risk;
(b) assist the social worker with the implementation of parenting plans, family reunification services and other basic supervision services to clients;
(c) community-based care which includes direct services aimed at addressing basic needs of the client and community or group needs such as establishing community-based support programmes;
(d) practical support addressing the material needs, emotional support, practical arrangements, recruitment of volunteers and after care services;
(e) participate in a multi-disciplinary team;
(f) accessing and establishing resources, educating communities about how to access and use available resources; and develop the capacity of communities and groups to establish resources;
(g) administrative support which includes opening files, keeping records, taking minutes of meetings, keeping statistics; and
(h) research which includes completing questionnaires, processing research data, implementing research findings.

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(3) A student social auxiliary worker may perform on the instructions, and under the direct control, supervision and guidance of a social worker, any of the acts prescribed in sub-regulation (2), and delegated to him or her by that social worker as part of his or her education and training, guided by Council approved norms and standards for practice experience.

4. Repeal of regulations

These regulations shall repeal the Regulations Relating to Acts which especially pertain to the Profession of Social Work published in Government Notice 852 (Government Gazette 15658 dated 29 April 1994).

5. Short title and commencement

These regulations are called the Regulations defining the scope of practice of the profession of social work and shall come into operation on the date of publication.

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