



Representation of Professional Qualifications

| Approved | Revised | Related Policy | Supporting Documents |
|--------------|---------|----------------|---|
| January 2023 | n/a | | CCPA Code of Ethics A5; A6 (2020) CCPA Standards of Practice A5; A6 (2021) |

For the purposes of this policy "**qualification(s)**" means the relevant degree(s) obtained from an authorized degree-granting institution, and "**credential(s)**" means the licenses, registrations or certifications (and memberships) which signify authorization to use a title or that indicate current membership in a professional organization. In each case these must be rendered precisely wherever and whenever they are used.

POLICY

In the public interest, Counselling Therapists claim or imply only those professional qualifications and credentials that they currently possess and which can be verified by the College and the public.

Counselling Therapists shall not misrepresent nor falsely enhance their professional qualifications, experience, or performance. Counselling Therapists avoid using descriptions of their qualifications or credentials that are false, deceptive, or misleading. This includes the use of statements that could easily be misunderstood by virtue of what is said about their professional qualifications, credentials and services or by what is not said about them.

When Counselling Therapists become aware of misuse or misrepresentation of their qualifications or credentials by others, they take reasonable steps to correct or minimize the misuse or misrepresentation.

Use of the titles Counselling Therapist, Registered Counselling Therapist (RCT) and Registered Counselling Therapist-Candidate (RCT-C) or any combination thereof that suggests legal entitlement to practice counselling therapy, are *privileges* restricted to persons who are educated and licensed according to the standards set/adopted by NSCCT. Each Counselling Therapist has a responsibility to *protect* and to *promote* the appropriate and authorized use of these titles.

All advertising of services (including business cards) must include an indication of current NSCCT registration status, i.e., RCT or RCT-C.

Display of License

To protect the public and assure clients that they are receiving services from a licensed practitioner, Registered Counselling Therapists and Registered Counselling Therapist-Candidates must display their licensing certificate in a prominent location at their work site(s).

For counselling therapists who routinely see clients in more than one location, a ***True Authorized Duplicate*** of an original license can be obtained from the College.

Note: For Indigenous persons and others whose cultural emphasis on humility may limit this practice, it will suffice to have the credential on-site and available upon request at each practice location.

Name & Title Line

On the name & title line of business cards, email, etc., the NSCCT registration/licensing designation RCT or RCT-C must occur immediately following the highest academic qualification awarded, after which specialty certification(s) and/or other designations may appear in sequence.

Examples:

Maggie Stewart, BA, MEd (Counselling), RCT

Delores Grimshaw, BSc, MEd (Counselling), RCT-C, CCC

Reilly Jones, BA, MACP, RCT

Ima Khan, BA, MEd (Counselling Psychology), RCT, RP

Frank Wright, BEd, MEd (Counselling), RCT, CCC, CAMFT, CAPT, etc., etc.

Betty Bishop, MPsy, RCT-C

Note: Although NSCCT can only attest to the registration/licensure status of registrants, each registrant has an ethical obligation to ensure that any advertised qualification or credential is legitimate, current and verifiable by the College and the public

Note: Use of "Dr" before the name or the use of "PhD" as the highest level of academic qualification indicated following the name, is permitted only where the degree is in a discipline related to the practice of counselling therapy (e.g., counselling, psychotherapy, psychology, etc.) (CoP/SoP, A5).

PURPOSE

To protect the public interest by providing a standard for the display of qualifications and credentials.

To facilitate the public's ability to discern the qualifications and credentials of a licensed counselling therapist and to help ensure the public has access to fully qualified practitioners.

To maintain the integrity of the profession by protecting and promoting legislated title.