



Standard Change Advisory

Sexual Misconduct by Counselling Therapists

Effective March 1, 2025, a revised Practice Standard in respect to sexual misconduct by counselling therapists will come into effect. The new standard will supersede the current standard as outlined in Regulatory Practice Notice: Sexual Misconduct (2022).

Rationale

According to section 10 of the Regulated Health Professions General Regulations ... "an existing regulator and a regulatory body must adopt a mandatory standard of practice for addressing sexual misconduct and sexual abuse."

In March of 2024 the Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network was tasked by the Department of Health and Wellness to establish the minimum requirements for a standard on sexual abuse and sexual misconduct in order to establish a consistent framework and uniform definitions across regulated health professions.

The changes to NSCCT standards respecting sexual misconduct by a counselling therapist address these requirements.

Key Features of the Standard Change

- Revised definitions
- Consistency of definitions and core elements with other NS health profession regulators
- Revised non-exhaustive list of behaviour that may constitute sexual misconduct
- Revised exhaustive list of behaviour that constitutes sexual abuse
- New section on mandatory sanctions sought by the regulator for cases of sexual misconduct
- Clarification of counselling therapist duty to report sexual misconduct by others
- New section respecting a counselling therapist's duty to cooperate with other regulatory bodies in their investigation of complaints involving sexual misconduct and sexual abuse

In the case where the revised standard conflicts with the CCPA Code of Ethics or the CCPA Standards of Practice, or with any previously published standard, this standard shall apply.

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