

Good Character

Approved by: Registration Committee

Date: April 20, 2015

Policy

CRPO's Registration Regulation states that an applicant must meet the following requirements:

4. *An applicant must satisfy the following requirements for the issuance of a certificate of registration of any class:*

1. The applicant must, at the time of application, provide written details about any of the following that relate to the applicant and, where any of the following change with respect to the applicant after submitting the application but before the issuance of a certificate, the applicant must immediately provide written details with respect to the change:

i. A finding of guilt for any of the following:

A. A criminal offence.

B. An offence resulting in either imprisonment or a fine greater than \$1,000.

ii. A finding of professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity, or any similar finding, in relation to another regulated profession in Ontario or to any regulated profession in another jurisdiction.

iii. A current proceeding for professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity, or any similar proceeding, in relation to another regulated profession in Ontario or to any regulated profession in another jurisdiction.

iv. A finding of professional negligence or malpractice made against the applicant in any jurisdiction.

v. A refusal by any body responsible for the regulation of a profession in any jurisdiction to register or license the applicant.

vi. Whether the applicant was in good standing at the time he or she ceased being registered, whether in Ontario or in another jurisdiction, with a body responsible for the regulation of a profession.

vii. Any other event that would provide reasonable grounds for the belief that the applicant will not practise psychotherapy in a safe and professional manner.

2. The applicant's previous conduct must afford reasonable grounds for the belief that he or she will practise psychotherapy in a safe and professional manner.

Collectively, this is known as the "good character" requirement. The purpose of the good character requirement is to protect the public by ensuring that applicants for registration meet high ethical and professional standards.

Applicants for registration are asked to disclose instances of the above types of conduct that could call into question their ability to practise safely and professionally. If the applicant declares any offences, findings of professional misconduct, professional negligence or similar events and if the Registrar, based on the nature of the conduct, is of the belief that the applicant does not meet the good character requirement, the Registrar will refer the applicant to the Registration Committee for consideration.

The good character requirement in the regulation is exemptible, meaning that if the applicant does not meet the requirement, CRPO has some discretion in determining if the person should be registered, or registered with restrictions.

The following are some of the considerations for determining if an applicant has engaged in conduct that would make them unsuitable to practise:

- Seriousness of the conduct.
- How the conduct relates to the practice of psychotherapy.
- Duration of the conduct (e.g. one-time incident or persistent/repeated).
- Length of time since the conduct occurred.
- The applicant's intent related to the conduct.
- The applicant's insight or remorse regarding his/her past action.
- Remedial action since the conduct took place.
- Safeguards to prevent the conduct from recurring.

Evidence may come from the applicant or from third parties with relevant information about the applicant.