

# Consultation

## Registration Regulation Amendments

### Introduction:

This consultation document is released on behalf of the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO) to seek feedback from registrants and stakeholders about proposed amendments to the [Registration Regulation](#) under the *Psychotherapy Act, 2007* that would introduce an Emergency Class of registration, revise registration examination writing deadlines to coincide with the date of registration rather than application, and clarify that at least one successfully completed program is required to meet the education requirement. The proposed draft amendments to the Registration Regulation are attached as Appendix A<sup>1</sup>.

### Background:

#### Emergency Class

The government of Ontario has determined the need to increase health human resource capacity to help Ontario respond and recover from the pandemic by enabling the implementation of amendments to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) that include an 'emergency class' of registration for qualified practitioners.

As part of its response to the pandemic, the government introduced [Bill 106, Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness Act, 2022](#) which proposed to amend the RHPA to prohibit colleges from requiring Canadian experience, to establish expectations related to language proficiency requirements, to prescribe time limits for the review and approval of registration applications, and to require colleges to establish an emergency class of registration.

The regulation for the emergency class must include the specific emergency circumstances that will trigger the use of this class, a maximum term for the class to be open, and the circumstances under which a registrant in the emergency class would become eligible for another class of registration. The Ministry of Health requires that the final version of the regulation, finalized after a 60-day consultation period, be submitted by May 1, 2023. In August of 2023, the provisions of [O. Reg. 508/22: REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS](#) requiring an emergency class of registration will be proclaimed into force.

#### Exam Writing Deadlines

The Registration Regulation sets out that a Qualifying registrant must successfully complete the registration examination set or approved by the Registration Committee within three attempts. The Registration Regulation specifies that the first exam attempt must be made within the 24-month period following the date of application, and final exam attempt must be made within the five-year period following the date of application, unless a panel of the Examination Committee is

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<sup>1</sup> The proposed amendments are available in English only; translation will be completed by the Ministry of Health once the revised regulation is approved.

satisfied that exceptional circumstances prevented the applicant from taking the registration examination within these periods.

Since the registration examination can only be written once an applicant is deemed to have met certain registration requirements, delays in the application approval process impact the amount of time and number of available exam administrations a Qualifying registrant has to make their exam attempts.

### Completed Program

The Registration Regulation sets out that an applicant must have either:

- successfully completed a program or master's degree in psychotherapy approved by the Registration Committee (i.e., CRPO recognized program/accepted bridging program), or
- successfully completed a program that is substantially equivalent to an approved program, or
- have such other education and training, which must include one or more programs in psychotherapy, together with any further education or training, or combination of education and training, that when taken together evidences successful completion of a program that is substantially equivalent to an approved program.

CRPO intends the final option to mean that the applicant must have successfully completed at least one master's level program/degree in psychotherapy and that the program in combination with additional education and training (e.g., individual courses) taken altogether is substantially equivalent to an approved program.

Note: The Registration Regulation allows an applicant to apply and register in the Qualifying class once they have substantially completed their education and training if they are actively pursuing the completion of the training. The proposed amendment to the Registration Regulation will not impact this.

## **Proposed Registration Regulation Amendments:**

### Emergency Class

#### *Specifying emergency circumstances*

The emergency class is open only when there is an emergency. The draft regulation needs to specify who determines there is an emergency that necessitates the application process for the emergency class to be open. It is proposed that it is CRPO Council that determines there is an emergency requiring the quick and flexible registration of more RPs that would directly assist in the emergency. In making this determination, the Council may take into account all of the relevant circumstances including the presence of a significant interruption in the processing of applications for registration for other classes such that there is a lengthy delay in applicants being registered and any requests by the Minister to initiate registrations under the emergency class.

#### *Registration requirements to apply for the emergency class*

The registration requirements for the emergency class need to balance public protection and flexibility. The College wants to ensure only competent practitioners are registered but the process needs to be more flexible than the regular route to open the door to more practitioners to

assist in the emergency. Adding too many registration requirements will also impact processing timelines which need to be expedient in an emergency.

The current requirements for the temporary class and labour mobility were reviewed in considering what requirements to propose for the emergency class.

The requirements in the Registration Regulation that apply to all classes of registration would also apply to the emergency class, including requirements related to:

- completing the jurisprudence module
- submitting a complete application with applicable fees
- good character
- good standing with other current and past regulatory bodies
- the absence of physical or mental conditions or disorders which in the public interest would necessitate the application of terms, conditions or limitations or refusal of registration
- language proficiency
- professional liability insurance

The following registration requirements are proposed for the emergency class:

- The applicant must have been registered to practise psychotherapy in another regulated jurisdiction in which the requirements are similar to CRPO's education, clinical experience, and registration examination requirements for the Registered Psychotherapist class.
  - This requirement ensures the applicant has training and experience in the profession and that they have undergone an application review in another jurisdiction. The requirements in the other jurisdiction need to be similar but not identical to CRPO's requirements, which allows for flexibility.
  - Using this requirement also means the applicant would not complete the mapping tool evaluation, which is time consuming for both the applicant and staff to review.
  - The temporary class includes this requirement but requires registration in another jurisdiction to be current. It is proposed for the emergency class that the registration in another jurisdiction be current or in the past to add flexibility.
- The applicant must have practised the profession within three years prior to submitting their application.
  - This is similar to the currency requirement of the labour mobility route and more flexible than the currency requirement of 750 currency hours in the three years prior to submitting an application.

#### *Terms, conditions and limitations on emergency class of registration*

The following TCLs are the same for all classes of registration, including the emergency class:

- Reporting changes to conduct and registration with other regulators.
- Using only the title and abbreviation on their certificate of registration.
  - For the emergency class, this would be Registered Psychotherapist (Emergency Class) or the abbreviation RP (Emergency Class).
- Maintaining PLI and reporting within two days if they do not have PLI.
- Practising only in the area of psychotherapy in which they have the necessary knowledge, skill and judgment.

It is proposed that a TCL specific to the emergency class that requires the registrant to practice psychotherapy with clinical supervision be included. This requirement is a safeguard to protect the public and will also provide support to the emergency class registrant as they begin practice.

#### *Expiry of emergency class of registration*

The Ministry is requiring that the emergency class certificate must be issued for a minimum period of one year and must be renewable for that length of time as well. The draft regulation includes that the certificate will expire if it is not renewed.

It is proposed that the certificate expires six months after Council determines that the emergency circumstances no longer exist. This six-month period allows the registrant time to transfer to another class or to close their practice and refer clients to another practitioner.

#### *Transition from emergency class of registration to another class*

The Ministry is requiring colleges to specify emergency class registrants transferring to another class of registration. It is proposed that emergency class registrants transfer to the RP (Qualifying) class. This would mean the registrant would be required to continue practicing with clinical supervision until they meet the requirements to transfer to RP and obtain independent practice. In the RP (Qualifying) category, they would be required to pass the Registration Exam and submit documentation to support 450 direct client contact and 100 clinical supervision hours to transfer to RP. Requiring emergency class registrants to transfer to RP (Qualifying) rather than directly to RP ensures the normal safeguards are in place and met prior to independent practice. The transfer to RP (Qualifying) will not require a full application through the regular route or completion of the mapping tool. Making the requirements to transfer to another class too restrictive would impact continuity of care for clients.

It is proposed that in order to transfer to RP (Qualifying) the registrant must currently hold or have held an emergency class certificate within the last six months. This captures that the transfer process is intended for continuity of care and ensures someone can't transfer after they are no longer current in the profession.

#### Exam Writing Deadlines

It is proposed that the Registration Regulation be revised so that the first exam attempt must be made within the 24-month period following the date on which a Qualifying certificate of registration was issued, and final exam attempt must be made within the five-year period following the date on which a Qualifying certificate of registration was issued.

Making this change will eliminate exam extension requests that are required if there is a delay during the application process (e.g., issue obtaining documents, referral to a panel of the Registration Committee) or if the applicant is approved with a conditional approval (e.g., complete four courses prior to a certificate being issued). This change will also be more fair to registrants in that they all will have a full 24 months in the RP (Qualifying) category to make an exam attempt.

#### Completed Program

It is proposed that the words "successfully completed" be added to the provision for the combination of education and training option to clarify that an applicant must have at least one successfully completed program in psychotherapy. "Successfully completed a program" is already

included in the other options to demonstrate meeting the education requirement and making this change to the Registration Regulation will ensure alignment with the Registration Committee's interpretation and [Program Definition Policy](#).

### **Feedback:**

We invite your feedback on the proposed amendments to the Registration Regulation. Feedback received will be considered by Council before the amendments are submitted to the Ministry of Health.

You may submit your feedback via email to [info@crpo.ca](mailto:info@crpo.ca) or using the [online survey](#).

All feedback will be published as part of the process of bringing the draft regulation for final approval by the Council. Submissions received from individuals will be published anonymously, while feedback from organizations will be published to include the name of the organization.

Registrants and stakeholders have until **Friday, March 31, 2023** to provide feedback.

# APPENDIX A

## Amendments to Ontario Regulation 67/15: Registration **DRAFT 0.1**

Section 2 is removed and replaced with the following:

2. The following are prescribed as classes of certificates of registration:

1. Registered Psychotherapist.
2. Qualifying.
3. Temporary.
4. Inactive.
5. Emergency.

Section 5, paragraph 2 is amended adding as sub-paragraph v.

v. A member who holds an Emergency certificate of registration may only use one or more of the titles “Registered Psychotherapist (Emergency Class)” or “Psychothérapeute autorisé (catégorie d’urgence)”, and may only use the abbreviation “RP (Emergency Class)” for the English title and “PA (catégorie d’urgence)” for the French title.

Subsection 6(1), paragraph 1, sub-paragraph iv is removed and replaced with the following:

iv. have such other education and training, which must include one or more **successfully completed** programs in psychotherapy, together with any further education or training, or combination of education and training, that when taken together evidences, in the opinion of the Registration Committee, successful completion of a program that is substantially equivalent to a program referred to in subparagraph i or ii.

Subsections 6(4)(a) and (b) are removed and replaced with the following:

(a) sits his or her first attempt at the examinations within the 24-month period following the date on which **a Qualifying certificate of registration was issued** unless a panel of the Examination Committee is satisfied that exceptional circumstances prevented the applicant from taking the registration examination within this period;

(b) sits his or her final attempt at the examinations within the five-year period following the date on which **a Qualifying certificate of registration was issued** unless a panel of the Examination Committee is satisfied that exceptional circumstances prevented the applicant from taking the registration examinations within this period; and

The following sections are added:

### *Emergency Certificates of Registration*

29. The following are additional requirements for the issuance of a certificate of registration in the emergency class:

- (1) The Council of the College has determined that there are emergency circumstances such that it is in the public interest to issue certificates of registration in the emergency class. In making this determination, the Council may take into account all of the relevant circumstances including the presence of a significant interruption in the processing of applications for registration for other classes such that there is a lengthy delay in their

being registered and any requests by the Minister to initiate registrations under the emergency class.

(2) The applicant must have been registered or licensed to practise psychotherapy in another jurisdiction in which the requirements for registration or licensure are similar to those in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of subsection 6 (1).

(3) The applicant must have completed, no earlier than two years before the date of his or her application, the jurisprudence course that was set or approved by the Registration Committee.

30. The requirements of section 29 are non-exemptible.

31. An additional requirement for the issuance of a certificate of registration in the emergency class is that within the three years prior to submitting their application for registration, the applicant has practised the profession.

32. Every certificate of registration in the emergency class is subject to the following terms, conditions and limitations:

1. The member must practise psychotherapy with clinical supervision.

#### *Emergency Class, Expiry*

33. (1) Unless stated otherwise on the certificate, a certificate of registration in the emergency class expires one year after it is issued unless it is renewed.

(2) Unless stated otherwise on the certificate, a renewed certificate of registration in the emergency class expires one year after it is issued unless it is renewed again.

(3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), a certificate of registration in the emergency class expires six months after the date the Council of the College determines that emergency circumstances no longer exist even where the certificate would otherwise expire before or after that time.

#### *Moving from Emergency to Qualifying Certificate*

15. A member who holds, or held within the previous six months, a certificate of registration in the emergency class may be issued a certificate of registration in the Qualifying class [*general/independent*] despite not having met the requirements set out in section 10, if the member applies for a certificate of registration in the Qualifying class.