

Newfoundland and Labrador Psychology Board

P.O. Box 8275, Station A, St. John's, NL A1B 3N4

website: <http://www.nlpsychboard.ca>

July 21, 2020

Psychological Services by Out of Province Practitioners to Clients Temporarily Relocated to Newfoundland and Labrador due to COVID-19 pandemic

The Board has had inquiries from licensed psychological service providers from other North American jurisdictions whose clients have temporarily relocated or returned to Newfoundland and Labrador during the COVID-19 pandemic. In some cases, the clients may be experiencing considerable distress and are at increased risk because their psychological services have been interrupted.

The Psychologists Act, 2005 limits the provision of psychological services in the province to Registrants of the Newfoundland and Labrador Psychology Board (NLPB). And, we are not able to authorize anyone, other than Registrants of the NLPB and signatories to the Atlantic Provinces MOU, to provide telepsychology services to clients located in the province.

Under normal circumstances, the NLPB views such activities by non-members as "unauthorized practice" and considers whether there is a need for appropriate action. The Board has carefully considered the extreme circumstances in which we find ourselves and recognize that this must be taken into account with regard to duly registered/licensed practitioners from other jurisdictions who must provide telepsychology services into Newfoundland and Labrador for their existing clients during the current emergency situation.

Therefore, in response to the urgent COVID-19 pandemic, the NLPB will not initiate an "unauthorized practice" action against an out of province practitioner provided they have completed and submitted to the NLPB the attached form.

While the College will endeavour to acknowledge receipt of this information, practitioners need not wait for confirmation before initiating service.

NOTE: The NLPB does not have the authority to authorize its registrants to practice in other jurisdictions. If registrants have questions regarding the provision of telepsychology services into other jurisdictions based on their registration in Newfoundland and Labrador, they should contact the jurisdiction in question. It is our understanding that many other Canadian jurisdictions are taking steps to make this possible but the requirements, e.g., notifying the College; time limits on such services, etc., may vary among jurisdictions.

Telepsychology Services Registration

(Inbound)

Thank you for informing the Newfoundland and Labrador Psychology Board of your intent to engage in telepsychology into Newfoundland and Labrador during the COVID 19 pandemic .

We require you to complete the following information:

Name _____

Registration jurisdiction _____ Reg. # _____

Address _____

Tel. (Bus) _____ Tel. (home or cell) _____

Email address _____

ATTESTATION

Please read the following and sign below.

1. I am a Registered Psychologist in good standing in the Province of _____ Yes No
2. I consent to have any information relevant to my telepsychology practice shared with my home jurisdiction Yes No
3. I have reviewed the Telepsychology Guidelines on the Board website (<https://nlpsychboard.ca/registrants/telepsychology-documents/>) which guide the practice of telepsychology. Yes No
4. I will practice only within my areas of competence and in keeping with any terms, limits and conditions on my license/certificate of registration; Yes No
5. I will provide the services to existing clients who are temporarily in Newfoundland and Labrador due to the COVID-19 pandemic Yes No
6. I have determined that it is clinically ill-advised to temporarily stop services and/or to transfer the service to a registrant of the Newfoundland and Labrador Psychology Board. Yes No

For your information, a copy of the Psychologists Act, 2005, the legislation relevant to the practice of psychology in our jurisdiction, can be found at <http://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/annualstatutes/2012/1224.chp.htm> .

*Please advise of any issues or concerns. **This clearance had been available until July 1, 2020. This clearance was extended by the Board to September 30, 2020.** Should you wish to extend access beyond this date, please contact the NLPB.*

Signed

Date

