
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA

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Standards Committee

Report to the Annual General Meeting
of the Psychological Association of Manitoba

March 30, 2017

A central task of the P.A.M. Standards Committee is looking into situations where a person who is not a Registered Psychologist in Manitoba appears to have contravened C.C.S.M. c. P190 (The Psychologists Registration Act (Manitoba)), which states that the professional designation "C. Psych." may only be used in Manitoba by persons duly Registered with the Psychological Association of Manitoba. The Act provides that it is an offense for any person not registered under the Act to refer to him/herself as a Psychologist or to describe the services he/she provides using the words "psychological", "psychologist" or "psychology." The approach taken by Standards is normally educational when such situations arise, and that has been the case again this year.

Over the past year, the following actions have been taken by the Standards Committee:

1. Follow-up correspondence with an individual employed as a school psychologist using the title School Psychologist in a private practise report, which would not be work covered by the exempt institutions clause of the Psychologists Registration Act of Manitoba.
2. Clarification from a registered psychologist about whether this psychologist had been training others in the use of level C psychological tests when those individuals did not have appropriate academic credentials. This turned out to be a misunderstanding when work that the psychologist was doing was described by someone else in an organization's annual report.
3. A former registrant was contacted about an advertisement describing this individual as a registered psychologist was noticed in publically available media. The individual clarified that this advertisement was out of date and had been missed when the individual's media profile had been revised.
4. An individual with an academic degree in psychology providing a consultation service related to sports and physical activity was advised that the title "Psychologist" could not

be used in relation to this service, unless this individual was registered with PAM. The description of credentials was changed.

5. A non-registered individual employed as a counsellor was described in an organization's public media as a "Psychologist". This turned out to be a misunderstanding by the organization's media staff and the information was changed.
6. An individual working in a post-secondary institution with an advanced degree in a field closely related to psychology with expertise in adjustment to illness was advised to be cautious with the use of the term "psychology" to describe their area of work. Some of the work of this individual had also involved providing services to individuals in the hospital system where some misunderstandings had developed about this individual being perceived by other health providers as a "Psychologist". Information about regulated health services was provided and advice offered about how to reduce misunderstandings.
7. An individual in a private practise setting who described themselves as a "Clinical Psychological Associate" but who is not registered with PAM was advised that this use of this title is restricted by the Act. The individual was also cautioned that the use of the title "School Psychologist" is confined to exempt institutions for individuals who are not registered with PAM. This issue is recent and ongoing.
8. An individual registered as a Psychological Associate Candidate was advised to clarify in her public information who her supervising psychologist is and to ensure that this supervisor is responsible for all of her work as a PA Candidate. This issue is recent and ongoing.

I wish to thank those persons who have brought these matters to our attention and for the contribution they have made to maintaining professional standards that protect the public.

Hal Wallbridge, Ph.D., C. Psych. - (Chair)
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