

## **Registrant Requirements under the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)**

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The regulation of psychology in Nova Scotia was migrated to the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) from the Nova Scotia Psychologist Act on November 24, 2025. As a part of the transition under the new act, the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology (NSBEP) was renamed the Nova Scotia Regulator of Psychology (NSRP).

The RHPA lists several requirements for regulated health professionals. Note that these are requirements that this government legislation has applied to every regulated health professional in Nova Scotia. While they are mostly consistent with current NSRP guidelines, ethics and standards, the new government legislation may carry more weight because they use mandatory language (“shall” comply) with these requirements.

60 (1) A registrant shall

- (a) comply with this Act and the regulations, bylaws, code of ethics and standards of practice;
- (b) co-operate with the regulatory body, the registrar and any committees of the regulatory body with respect to any regulatory process or requirements under this Act, the regulations and the bylaws;
- (c) maintain current contact information with the regulatory body;
- (d) maintain a record of practice hours;
- (e) maintain such professional liability insurance or other form of malpractice coverage or liability protection as required by the board;
- (f) practise only within
  - (i) the registrant’s individual scope of practice and scope of practice of the designation held by that registrant,
  - (ii) any terms, conditions or restrictions of the registrant’s licence, and
  - (iii) any expanded scope of practice authorized for that registrant in accordance with this Act, the regulations and the bylaws;
- (g) report to the registrar if the registrant has reasonable grounds to believe that another registrant
  - (i) has engaged in professional misconduct, incompetence or conduct unbecoming the profession,

(ii) is incapacitated, or

(iii) is practising in a manner that otherwise constitutes a danger to the public; and

(h) report to the regulatory body of another health profession if the registrant has reasonable grounds to believe that a member of that profession

(i) has engaged in professional misconduct, incompetence or conduct unbecoming the profession as those terms apply to that profession,

(ii) is incapacitated, or

(iii) is practising in a manner that otherwise constitutes a danger to the public.

(2) No action for damages or other relief lies against a registrant for any report made under clause (1)(g) or (h) if such report was made in good faith.

As noted, the requirements listed above are consistent with existing NSRP expectations (with added legal weight under the RHPA), in addition to any responsibility related to NSRP guidelines, ethics or standards.

While most requirements align with existing NSRP expectations, the RHPA elevates these duties to a statutory level. Specifically, two areas represent a shift in practice:

**Practice Hours (60 (1)(d)):** To operationalize the RHPA, the NSRP bylaws now require registrants to ensure they maintain a record of practice hours. This formalized provision was not present in the previous Psychologists Act. Registrants should maintain a simple weekly log (e.g., spreadsheet or notebook, etc.) to ensure this data is available if requested. This should typically take no more than 5–10 minutes per week. As a guideline, here is what can be included. **The following categories are provided as examples only — what matters is maintaining a record of your total practice hours**, as this information may be required to demonstrate currency of practice requirements for licensure (in accordance with RHPA).

- **Direct Client Service:** hours spent in direct clinical service, such as individual treatment and assessment sessions.
- **Indirect Client Service:** indirect hours related to clinical work, including:
  - **Charting and Documentation:** time spent on clinical notes and record-keeping.
  - **Case Preparation:** time dedicated to preparing for specific client sessions.
  - **Consultations/Literature Review:** time spent on consultations or research specifically regarding a particular case.
- **Supervision/Presentations/Other Duties:** providing supervision of candidates, residents, psychology students, and other professionals.

- **Research and Teaching:** hours spent in psychological research or academic teaching positions that are part of one’s practice of psychology.
- **Other Psychology Roles:** other relevant duties relating to one’s practice of psychology that is not captured above

**Mandatory Reporting (60 (1)(g) and (h)):** While the duty to report in certain situations has long been part of the professional ethics and various provincial statutes, it has now transitioned into a formalized legislative mandate under the RHPA. This ensures a consistent, legislated standard across all regulated health professions in Nova Scotia. The NSRP has prepared information pertaining to this update of requirements in a separate document “**Considerations for psychologists when Disclosing Confidential Personal Information**” - available at: <https://www.ns-rp.ca/information-for-registrants/for-all-registrants/standards-guidelines/> (Guidelines). [Click here for a direct link to the document.](#)

Additionally the listing of relevant legislation for psychologists in the “**STANDARDS OF PRACTICE (Listing of standards, legislation and guidelines)** – is available at: [https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Binder\\_Standards\\_Legislation\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Binder_Standards_Legislation_Guidelines.pdf)

## Conclusion & Support

The transition to the RHPA represents a significant step in the professionalization and oversight of health services in Nova Scotia. The NSRP is committed to providing regulatory guidance to assist registrants with this evolution.

How to Seek Guidance:

1. Self-Serve: Thoroughly review the NSRP Regulatory Guidance Library:

- **Centralized Standards & Guidelines:** *The NSRP website features a dedicated [Standards and Guidelines](#) portal. This serves as a source for practice expectations, providing registrants with the tools to help interpret and apply standards in their daily practice.*
- **Registration and Renewal Guidance:** *Information regarding licensure requirements and renewal processes is maintained on the [Information for Registrants](#) page.*
- **Direct Digital Communication:** *Archive of [Email Updates and Announcements](#) sent to registrants in the past, ensuring that time-sensitive information—such as changes to the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA), renewal deadlines, and legislative amendments—is delivered directly to every registrant.*

2. **Liability & Legal:** For questions regarding personal liability, legal defense, or specific court-related matters, please contact your professional liability insurance provider or legal counsel.

3. **Practice Suggestions:** If you identify a gap in our materials or would like to suggest a topic for a future practice advisory, please email the NSRP Office.

4. **Regulatory Consultation:** If you have a complex inquiry regarding the interpretation of NSRP Standards or the RHPA, you may submit a formal inquiry to the NSRP office.