



Note: This document was originally issued in October 2004 and revised in October 2025. It has been further revised in April 2026 to reflect the legislative framework established by the Regulated Health Professions Act (S.N.S. 2023, c. 15) and the Psychology Regulations (N.S. Reg. 252/2025), which came into force on November 24, 2025. Readers who relied on previous versions of this document should note that the governing legislative framework has changed and should review this document accordingly.

Registrant Responsibilities in Supervising Non-Registrants

The Nova Scotia Regulator of Psychology (NSRP) recognizes that registrants, in the provision of professional services, often engage non-registrants to assist in the practice of psychology. Such individuals may be employees of the practice or independent contractors. Common examples include psychometrists and behavioural consultants assisting with tasks such as test administration or other work within the practice.

This document addresses the supervision of non-registrants who are not members of another regulated health profession and who assist in the practice of psychology under delegation or assignment by a registrant. Separate considerations apply where a registrant supervises interns or practicum students in a psychology program, or where a registrant supervises a practitioner from another occupation on a particular set of activities. Registrants are directed to the NSRP Supervision Scenarios (https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Supervision_Scenarios.pdf) and the NSRP Advisory on Extended Responsibility in Teaching Psychology and Supervising Practicum Students (<https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Advisory-Extended-Responsibility-Teaching-Psychology-Supervising-Practicum-Students.pdf>) for guidance on those scenarios.

Under Section 17 of the Psychology Regulations, nothing in the Regulated Health Professions Act, the Psychology Regulations, or NSRP's bylaws prohibits a non-registrant from assisting in the practice of psychology through delegation or assignment of tasks by a registrant, provided this is done in accordance with requirements approved by the Board. The practice of psychology in these arrangements remains that of the registrant — it is the registrant who delegates or assigns tasks, assumes professional responsibility, and is accountable to NSRP for the quality and safety of services provided.

Registrant Responsibilities

In keeping with the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists (I.47: responsibility for services provided by others; II.56: ensuring competent supervision; III.37: protecting client welfare; IV.30: maintaining professional standards), NSRP Standards of Professional Conduct, and

Standards for Providers of Psychological Services, registrants supervising non-registrants must ensure effective oversight. This includes:

- **In-Person Services in Nova Scotia:** A registrant supervising a non-registrant providing in-person services to Nova Scotia clients must hold a licence with NSRP. This ensures compliance with NSRP’s regulatory oversight and standards for public protection.
- **Telepsychology Services:** Psychologists registered in another Canadian jurisdiction may supervise non-registrants providing telepsychology services to Nova Scotia clients, provided they assume responsibility for the supervisee’s work under their home jurisdiction’s registration, in accordance with NSRP’s telepsychology policy.
- **Delegation of Supervision:** A registrant managing a psychology practice may delegate supervisory responsibilities for non-registrants to other qualified registrants holding a licence with NSRP. The delegating registrant retains overall responsibility for the arrangement. The registrant to whom supervision is delegated assumes full responsibility for the non-registrant’s work for specific assignments.
- **Supervision Requirements:** Whether supervising in-person or telepsychology services, the supervising registrant must:
 - Have the training, experience, and accessibility to oversee the non-registrant’s work and manage client situations effectively, including urgent matters such as crises or ethical dilemmas
 - Implement regular oversight and document supervisory activities to ensure compliance with ethical and professional standards
 - For telepsychology supervision, use secure and reliable technology and establish protocols to address client situations remotely, including access to in-province resources or collaboration with a locally licensed registrant for urgent matters

Title Use

The Psychology Regulations establish title protections for registrants of NSRP. Non-registrants assisting in the practice of psychology must not use any title protected under the Regulated Health Professions Act or the Psychology Regulations, or describe their activities in a manner that suggests registration status with NSRP. The Psychology Regulations specifically recognize “psychology technician” as a title available to non-registrants assisting a registrant. Non-registrants and their employers should satisfy themselves that any title used does not contravene the Regulated Health Professions Act or the Psychology Regulations. Legal advice may be appropriate where there is uncertainty.

Client Transparency

Under NSRP Standards of Professional Conduct:

Standard 4.10 — A registrant who engages non-registrants to provide services must ensure clients are informed at the outset regarding the professional status, qualifications, functions, and supervision of the non-registrant. This includes informing clients about the nature of the supervision arrangement, whether supervision is telepsychology or in-person, and the measures in place to ensure effective oversight and client safety.

Standard 4.11 — The registrant must ensure all billing practices related to the non-registrant are clear and transparent.

Registrant Accountability

Registrants remain responsible for ensuring that supervision arrangements protect client safety and meet ethical and professional standards. Any problems arising from services provided by non-registrants may become the subject of a regulatory matter for the supervising registrant. Registrants are encouraged to carefully examine their supervision arrangements and satisfy themselves that adequate oversight is in place before proceeding.

Registrants holding a candidate psychologist conditional licence are particularly cautioned. Due to their more limited experience, supervising non-registrants may expose them and the public to risk.

This guidance is distinct from NSRP's supervision requirements for candidate psychologist conditional licence holders, which apply to registrants completing supervised practice under an NSRP-approved supervisor.

Additional NSRP Guidance

Registrants should review the following for additional guidance:

- Billing Practices and Co-Signing of Receipts: https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/billing_practices.pdf
- Communication by Registrants: <https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Communication.pdf>
- Co-signing of Psychological Reports: https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Policy_Advisory_Cosigning_Reports.pdf
- Grievance Policy: https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Grievance_Policy.pdf
- Supervision Scenarios: https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Supervision_Scenarios.pdf
- NSRP Telepsychology Policy: <https://www.ns-rp.ca/information-for-registrants/telepsychology/>

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