

Telepractice – CCTPEI Registrants Working with Clients in Other Jurisdictions

Policy Number: CCTPEI - AD - 001

Approved by: Council

Approval Date: August 30, 2021

Category: Administration

Relevant Legislation and Regulation: Code of Ethics on Jurisdictional Issues Pg. 28 sec H7.

Purpose

Telepractice refers to the use of information and communication technologies for the purpose of delivering counselling therapy services when the provider and client are in different physical locations.

Used appropriately, telepractice can be a powerful tool to connect clients with the mental health services they need.

The following guidelines are intended to facilitate the use of professional judgement by PEICCT registrants. As with any service, or method of service delivery, PEICCT registrants are required to exercise their judgement on a case-by-case basis. The Counselling Therapist's fundamental responsibility is to the client whether service is provided face-to-face or by telepractice.

Policy

CCTPEI Registrants must:

1. Be informed of and abide by the legislation, standards and guidelines (if applicable) for telepractice services within the client's jurisdiction.
2. Consider if telepractice is the most appropriate means of providing counselling therapy services, and whether there are any liability and/or risk issues to manage (i.e. is a plan in place to address adverse or unexpected events such as a client with high suicide risk, etc.).
3. Understand the capabilities and limitations of the chosen communication platform.
4. Take reasonable measures to maintain confidentiality and protect personal health information when providing counselling therapy services via telepractice.

5. Obtain and document informed consent before initiating telepractice services. This includes the disclosure of any limitations or risks of the use of telepractice and of all fees associated with telepractice.
6. Document consent, as well as any assessment, treatment or follow-up to the same standard as if the service was carried out face to face.
7. Establish and maintain professional standards and boundaries during telepractice; and
8. Uphold the CCTPEI Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

These guidelines are adapted from the PEI College of Occupational Therapists.

Telepractice – Practitioners in Other Jurisdictions who are Not Members of the CCTPEI Working with Clients in PEI

Approved by: Council

Date: Sept 6, 2021

Category:

Relevant Legislation and Regulation: Code of Ethics on Jurisdictional Issues Pg. 28 sec H7.

Policy

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, and in the years preceding it, technology has facilitated an increase in cross jurisdictional telepractice where counselling therapy services are being provided/continued from a different jurisdiction from that of the client. This policy is for those practitioners that use the term Counselling Therapist and who wish to work with clients in PEI but are not members of the CCTPEI.

The public is free to choose any practitioner with whom they wish to work. If a practitioner using the title of Counselling Therapist from another jurisdiction is providing services in PEI, they do not need to register with the CCTPEI if:

1. They do not advertise their services in PEI;
2. They do not maintain more than 3 clients at any time; and

3. Their PEI clients do not form a substantial portion of their client base (less than 20 %).

If a practitioner from another jurisdiction is providing counselling therapy services in PEI and they do not meet the above conditions, they may register with the CCTPEI in one of the following ways:

1. As a New Applicant applying for general or provisional registration;
2. As a Labour Mobility Transfer; or
3. As a Special Registrant (1 month short-term non-renewable registration).

To apply as a Labour Mobility transfer or Special Registrant, the applicant must have current registration in good standing in another Canadian jurisdiction and 2M in professional liability insurance.

Any practitioner who is not a registrant of the CCTPEI who is working with clients in PEI is expected to disclose the following:

1. That the client will not be able to bring any complaints to the CCTPEI as it will be outside of the CCTPEI's jurisdiction;
2. The name of the College and/or association to which complaints may be brought (or that there is no College or Association to which complaints may be brought); and
3. The method by which complaints may be brought forward.

Practitioners in other provinces who wish to expand their work in PEI are welcome to apply for registrant status with CCTPEI. Benefits for practitioners in other jurisdictions of joining the CCTPEI include:

1. Registrant status in the CCTPEI including access to our registrar and use of our logo on your website.
2. Use of the title Counselling Therapist in working with and advertising to clients in PEI
3. No limit on the number of clients you can work with in PEI