



PRACTICE SUPPORT DOCUMENT ON USE OF TITLE

The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists provides practice support documents to assist members with identifying issues for consideration with respect to a particular aspect of psychology practice. Practice support documents are intended to provide general guidance in dealing with a practice issue, but they cannot anticipate all variables that might be relevant to a member's decision-making. Practice support documents are not meant to be exhaustive, and the College accepts no responsibility for any errors and omissions. The information in these documents is not legal advice and does not replace governing legislation or professional standards of practice that take precedence over practice support documents to the extent of any inconsistency. In addition, the practice support documents do not establish binding standards of practice or impose mandatory requirements to the extent that such requirements are not already established by governing legislation and professional standards. Members are responsible for any decision made respecting their practice of psychology and practice support documents are not intended to be a substitute for professional judgment. This document must not be copied in part, and any copy of its entirety must retain this disclaimer and attribute this document to the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists. Practice support documents are current to the date published on the respective document.

Members of the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists are granted the authority to use the protected title of Psychologist and the designation of Registered Psychologist. Under section 24 of the *Psychologists Act*: Individuals who are not members and licensed with the College are prohibited from using this title, unless they are exempt by law pursuant to section 24(3) of the *Psychologists Act*. Members of the College who hold doctoral degrees recognized by the College as the basis for their membership may use the title "Doctoral Psychologist." The goal of having a protected title is to provide clear information to the public about a member's licensure and qualifications, and their status as a regulated professional.

The College provides the following guidance to assist members with accurately presenting their title and qualifications, and in a manner that avoids the possibility of the public misperceiving that they have been granted speciality designation or qualification by the College.

An example of the form of title for a member registered at the Master's level:

Leslie Smith, M.A., Registered Psychologist

An example of the form of title for a member registered at the Doctoral level:

Pat Smith, Ph.D., Registered Psychologist
or
Pat Smith, Ph.D., Registered Doctoral Psychologist

Members may also choose to abbreviate their title of Registered Psychologist in documents that are less likely to be read by the general public, such as clinical notes and hospital charts. Examples of the recommended abbreviated form of the title for members registered at the Masters and Doctoral levels are as follows:

Leslie Smith, M.A., R. Psych.

Pat Smith, Ph.D., R. Psych.
or
Pat Smith, Ph.D., R. D. Psych.

Members must place immediately before the professional title only the highest academic degree upon which the member's registration with the College is based. Where the member has been registered as a psychologist on the basis of a doctoral degree, the prefix Doctor (or Dr.) may be used, but not both the prefix and degree. The following examples are provided:

Acceptable: **Pat Smith, Ph.D., R.D. Psychologist**
or
Dr. Pat Smith, R.D. Psychologist

Unacceptable: Dr. Pat Smith, Ph.D., R. D. Psychologist

Members may specify other degrees of professional titles, such as LLB, only if the area of study is relevant to the member's psychology practice. The area of study must also be specified unless readily apparent from the degree or title.

Acceptable: **Kelly Smith, LLB, Ph.D., R.D. Psychologist.**
Sam Smith, MBA (Organizational Behaviour), Ph.D., R.D. Psych.

Members who obtain additional certification/credentials or have membership in fraternal bodies must not list those as part of their licensure title. The only exception to this is if one holds an ABPP. Listing of additional credentials and fraternal memberships may be confusing to the public, and it could be assumed that because they appear along with the licensure title they have been vetted by the College and a higher level of qualification has been awarded. However, it is acceptable to list one's additional training/certification and fraternal membership separately from one's licensure title, if it is clearly spelled out in a way that allows the public to investigate what the affiliation means. An example of how one may list additional training and certification as follows:

Acceptable: Chris Smith, Ph.D., Registered Doctoral Psychologist
Certification: Canadian Association of Cognitive and Behavioural Therapies (CACBT)
Membership: Canadian Psychological Association

Unacceptable: Chris Smith, Ph.D. R.D. Psych. CACBT, CPA

A provisional practising member who is licensed to practice shall use the title “Psychologist Provisional” or “Doctoral Psychologist Provisional.”

A non-practising member shall use the title “Psychologist Non-practising” or “Doctoral Psychologist Nonpractising”.

Acceptable: Jerry Smith, R. D. Psychologist (non-practicing)

Members who have limits or conditions on their practice must accurately reflect these conditions in how they present their title.

A member who is not licensed and who is not non-practising shall not use any title.

The license to practice provided by the College is a general license. It is not intended to convey licensure or endorsement of a member by the College in a specific area of practice. The legislation does not allow for specialty titles such as “Clinical Child Psychologist.” Such titles may be confusing, open to misunderstanding, and viewed as indicating that a higher level of specialty licensure has been awarded. This is not to say that one cannot list their areas of practice in their advertisements or communications. For example, it would be acceptable to list one’s areas of practice as follows:

Chris Smith, Ph.D., Registered Doctoral Psychologist

Practicing in the areas of:

- **Clinical Neuropsychology**
- **Physical Rehabilitation**

If an employer wishes to identify that a member is part of a specific work unit or practices in a specific area of practice it is important that the member is clear with their employer about the prohibition against the use of specialty titles such as, for example, “Early Childhood Psychologist.” An appropriate listing might be as follows:

Chris Smith, Ph.D., Registered Doctoral Psychologist
Early Childhood Psychology

Applicants for registration or members awaiting the awarding of a degree must not describe themselves as “candidate for registration” or “candidate for degree,” respectively.

A determination of equivalence by an external credentialing agency must not be represented, listed, or otherwise used in a manner to suggest that one has actually obtained that credential.