

THE
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS ACT
2005

DRAFT SUBMISSION OF

THE NATIONAL
HYPNOTHERAPY PSYCHOTHERAPY REGISTER
(NHPR)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

THE INSTITUTE OF
CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY AND
PSYCHOTHERAPY (ICHP)

SUBMISSION FOR DESIGNATION OF :-
“HYPNOTHERAPISTS”,
“HYPNOPSYCHOTHERAPISTS”,
“HYPNOANALYSTS”,
“HYPNOCOUNSELLORS”,
AND THE PROTECTION OF THESE TITLES UNDER THE ACT.

GUILFOYLES,
SOLICITORS
TUCKEY'S HOUSE, 8, TUCKEY STREET, CORK.
Tel:- 021 4272229
Fax:- 021 4275823

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In this submission, the ICHP/NHPR advocates:-

(1) That the titles:-

“Hypnotherapists”,
“Hypnopsychotherapists”,
“Hypnoanalysts”,
“Hypnocounsellors”

be protected within the Registration Board.

The establishment of a State Registration process for “Hypnotherapy-Psychotherapy” would close the common law loophole and consequently ensure higher levels of protection for the public. Section 27 of the Act states:-

“The object of the Registration Board of a designated profession is to protect the public by fostering high standards of professional conduct and professional education, training and competence among registrants of that profession”.

This submission has been prepared as a response to the Department of Health & Children and the governments requirements for registration of NHPR-ICHP Hypnopsychotherapists. A further detailed submission was first presented to the then Minister Michael Martin in a meeting held at the Maryborough House Hotel on the 14/11/03 and also has been further discussed at subsequent meetings with Junior Ministers and Civil Servants from the Department of Health & Children during the last five years.

FORENOTE:-

In this submission, and, the accompanying Quality Assurance Document (QAD) the National Hypnotherapy Psychotherapy Register (NHPR) in association with the Institute of Clinical Hypnotherapy & Psychotherapy (ICHP) will present proof that the statutory requirements for registration as a profession, under the :-

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS ACT 2005

have been complied with in all respects and in consequence, the Minister must make a decision on the application for registration of the NHPR and ICHP as a profession.

THE
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS
ACT 2005

SECTION 4 (4)

(A) “The extent to which the Profession has a defined scope of practice and applies a distinct body of knowledge.”

The hypnotherapist sub-grouped into hypnoanalyst, hypnopsychotherapist, and, hypnocounsellor provides a faster, more effective, and, cost efficient form than traditional psychotherapy and counselling services. Please refer to the Quality Assurance Document (QAD) prepared by the National Hypnotherapy Psychotherapy Register in Association with the Institute of Clinical Hypnotherapy, and, Psychotherapy). In particular refer to QAD 1 (pages 5 – 24)

THE
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS
ACT 2005

SECTION 4 (4)

(B) “The extent to which the profession has established itself, including whether there is at least one professional body representing a significant proportion of the profession’s practitioners”

The ICHP/NHPR represents over 95% of all the Hypnotherapist-Psychotherapists in Ireland. This includes Hypnotherapists, Hypno-Psychotherapists, Hypno-Analysts, Hypno-Counsellors, Hypno-birthing Practitioners etc. The historical reason for this is that in Ireland there has only been one school in operation, the ICHP/NHPR since 1979.

ICHP/NHPR are the only active body representing the interests of 95% of the Hypnotherapist-Psychotherapists in the Country.

ICHP/NHPR membership is open and transparent and can be viewed readily on ICHP website. ICHP/NHPR have over 600 members and have trained over 4000 students, with a current average of 100 students training with ICHP/NHPR every year.

The ICHP/NHPR has members in every county on the island of Ireland, and, in each major town in the country, both North and South. They also have schools in other European countries such as Sweden and Germany.

The ICHP/NHPR has established itself by becoming a founder member of the European Association of Hypnotherapy & Psychotherapy, which is the

European Gold Standard for accreditation. ICHP/NHPR have also aligned themselves with all major Hypnotherapy Associations in the U.K. and the U.S.

THE
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS
ACT 2005

SECTION 4(4)

(C) “The existence of defined routes of entry into the profession and of independently assessed entry qualifications”.

The profession has in place a management structure and articles of association (see QAD 2, pages 2 – 9) has established an advisory board and an executive advisory board (see QAD 3, pages 1 – 4) has a well established code of ethics, practice and standards (see QAD 4, pages 1 – 13) and has a well established disciplinary and complaints procedure (see QAD 5, page 1-8).

ICHP/NHPR has a unique system for accreditation and entry requirements from Level 1 to Level V outlined in Quality Assurance Document 8.

Level I – Foundation Certificate.

Level II – Diploma.

Level III – Advanced Diploma.

Level IV – Bachelors Degree.

Level V – Post-graduate Masters.

These requirements follow the HETAC and FETAC models of accreditation.

(See QAD 8 enclosed)

ICHP has also accreditation criteria and guidelines which are outlined in QAD 6, Pages 2 – 6. This outlines the progression of membership throughout each of the above levels of training.

The ICHP/NHPR has defined points of entry into the profession and has separate accreditation and assessment procedures for various entry qualifications.

The ICHP/NHPR has five levels of qualification and levels at which the qualified therapist practices.

(See QAD 6).

Also these levels correspond with the HETAC and FETAC requirements.

For example, the proposed member needs to have : -

- Completed a recognised course of training or equivalent.
- Completed the required hours of training at the Level they seek accreditation at.
- Completed the mandatory Supervision hours required at their Level of entry.
- Prove that they are currently in Supervision, insured, have completed personal therapy and are participating in continuous professional development.

The ICHP accreditation body is aware that those seeking membership have been trained by professional trainers in the U.S. and U.K. , Europe, internationally or similar courses in Ireland and needs to facilitate the diversity of the qualifications while simultaneously being aware of grandparenting, mature students and those with life experience.

For this purpose an accreditation procedure and administration is in place and each prospective member is assessed separately. Also a separate appeals procedure is in place in the event an applicant is deemed unsuitable. This whole process is open and transparent and has been conducted successfully by ICHP/NHPR since 1979.

THE
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS
ACT 2005

SECTION 4 (4)

- (D) “The professions commitment to Continuous Professional Development”.
-

The ICHP/NHPR has, since its inception, been committed to Continuous Professional Development. The ICHP/NHPR Code of Ethics, Standards and Practice specifically states that Hypnotherapist-Psychotherapist are committed to ongoing training on an annual basis and continued membership of the Association is dependant on compliance with this code. Therefore, members need to demonstrate that they have completed their annual requirements.

A list of the CPD programmes operated over the past 12 months and those organised for 2009 as a demonstration of the recognition of both the benefits CPD has for each member and the necessity of CPD for the maintenance of the highest standards in the Institute.

(See QAD 11)

THE
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS
ACT 2005

Section 4 (4)

(E) “The degree of risk to the health, safety and welfare of the public from incompetent, unethical or impaired practice of the profession.”

The ICHP/NHPR has a very comprehensive Code of Ethics, Standards and Practice, which includes disciplinary and complaints procedures outlined in Quality Assurance Document 5. In fact ICHP has insisted that all therapists are requested to put the following statement on their contracts with the general public :

“If a client has any genuine cause for concern... ..”

QAD 5 page 1 – paragraph 1.

ICHP Relationship to the public.

ICHP’s relationship to the public is outlined in QAD 5 also on page 1

ICHP Code of Ethics Standards and Practice is open and transparent and available on the ICHP website www.hyposiseire.com.

ICHP Code of Ethics Standards and Practice is outlined on each contract with the general public, making specific reference to Disciplinary and Complaints Procedures.

Each Member has a copy of the Code of Ethics Standards and Practice.

ICHP Code of Ethics Standards and Practice is in compliance with the European Association for Hypnotherapy Psychotherapy and with all main bodies of Psychotherapy in Ireland and the U.K.

For the protection of the public every member of ICHP is required to take out Professional Indemnity Cover. This cover is readily available from Network Insurances. (QAD – 13 page 2)

SUMMARY:

Each individual criterion required by the Act is in place and in consequence, the Minister, we submit, should exercise her proper function under the Act and formally confirm designation as a profession.

DATED THIS DAY OF AUGUST 2009

Signed: _____

**GUILFOYLES
SOLICITORS FOR ICHP/NHPR
Tuckey's House,
8, Tuckey Street,
Cork.**