



Revision to Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Standard

Dear Registrants,

We appreciate that many psychologists have expressed uncertainty regarding some sections of the new NSBEP **Standard for Sexual Misconduct & Sexual Abuse** and we are pleased to be able to provide some clarifications following ongoing consultations with the Department of Health and Wellness.

We have sought clarification from the Department of Health and Wellness regarding their mandated additions to the Standards and the Board has subsequently approved the revisions. Here's an overview of the process involved:

1. **Government Mandates and Deadlines:** The government mandated the requirements of these guidelines for healthcare regulators, setting a strict deadline in December 2024 where each regulatory body was to have guidelines. At the request of the NS Regulated Health Care Network, all healthcare regulators were subsequently allowed a "grace period" to January 8, 2025. Although the content is prescribed by the government, the process still requires the original and revised versions of the Sexual Misconduct & Sexual Abuse Standard to be approved by the NSBEP Board. The original draft of the standards was completed in December 2024.
2. **Clarification on Reporting Requirements:** In January, the government reviewed our new Standard and indicated that the terms "spouse" and "intimate partner" (which they had included but not defined in the mandated changes) needed to be defined by NSBEP. NSBEP provided definitions, borrowing on those used by other health care providers. At the same time, NSBEP sought clarification from the DHW regarding the intent of their mandated reporting requirements.
3. **Board Approval:** We brought the revised standards, based on the feedback received from the DHW, back to the Board for approval. The Board expedited the process, working diligently to review and approve these changes in a timely manner.
4. **Government Consultation:** We consulted with the government twice on these guidelines to ensure compliance and clarity.

Revised Standard:

- The revised **Standard for Sexual Misconduct & Sexual Abuse** has now been approved by the Board.
- Changes and clarifications are highlighted in yellow in the document which you can reference below.
- The content of the revised standard is the same except for the changes noted below, and it has been renumbered for clarity.

Key Changes:

- **Definition of Spouse and Intimate Partner:** The terms "spouse" and "intimate partner" have been clearly defined within the Standard.
- **Clarification on Section 4.1:** This section now clarifies that the standard applies to the registrant's work environment and the reporting of colleagues. It is not intended to cover disclosures made by clients during confidential sessions regarding their own work environments. When deciding whether to report, psychologists should also consider their professional standards and ethics.

Please review these changes carefully. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these complex regulatory requirements. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[Click here to review the revised version with the changes highlighted in yellow](#)

Best regards,

Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

[Website](#)

[About NSBEP](#)

[Registrants](#)

[Directory](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology | 455 - 5991 Spring Garden Road | Halifax,
NS B3H 1Y6 CA

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!