College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario

Type of Policy: Operational	**Approved By: Client Relations Committee**
Date Approved: June 17, 2026	**Next Review Date: June 2029**
Amendment Dates:	

Policy on Delegating Funding for Therapy and Counselling Decision-Making

PURPOSE

To establish conditions under which Client Relations Fund decisions are automatically delegated to staff by the Client Relations Committee.

SCOPE

This policy applies to decision-making about Client Relations Fund applications.

DEFINITIONS

Client: For the purpose of sexual abuse allegations, an individual is a client of a registrant if there is direct interaction between the registrant and the individual, and any of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The registrant has, in respect of a health care service provided by the registrant to the individual, charged or received payment from the individual or a third party on behalf of the individual.
- The registrant has contributed to a health record or file for the individual.
- The individual has consented to the health care service recommended by the registrant.

For the purposes of sexual abuse allegations, an individual remains a client for five years following the termination of the professional relationship.[1]

Sexual abuse: For the purpose of sexual abuse allegations, an individual is a client of a registrant if there is direct interaction between the registrant and the individual, and any of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The registrant has, in respect of a health care service provided by the registrant to the individual, charged or received payment from the individual or a third party on behalf of the individual.
- The registrant has contributed to a health record or file for the individual.
- The individual has consented to the health care service recommended by the registrant.

[1] For additional information about the legal definition of client, see Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, c. 18 (ontario.ca); O. Reg. 260/18: PATIENT CRITERIA UNDER SUBSECTION 1 (6) OF THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS PROCEDURAL CODE (ontario.ca)

For the purposes of sexual abuse allegations, an individual remains a client for five years following the termination of the professional relationship.

Primary Support Person(s) Therapy and Counselling Fund: A supplementary fund offered by the College to provide funding for counselling or therapy to the support persons of an individual who has alleged, in a complaint or report, that they were sexually abused by a registrant.

Therapy and Counselling Fund: As required by the Health Professions Procedural Code, each Ontario health regulatory college provides funding for counselling or therapy to clients who have alleged, in a complaint or report, that they were sexually abused by a registrant of that college.

POLICY

In administering the Therapy and Counselling Fund, the Client Relations Committee delegates decision-making authority to College staff provided either sets of the criteria below have been met with respect to the client funding application being reviewed:

Situation 1:

- The applicant was a client receiving care from a registrant at the time of the alleged sexual abuse, or within five years following the end of treatment;
- The College is provided with both the name of the client and of the registrant who allegedly sexually abused the client;
- A complaint or report has been filed with the College in relation to the alleged abuse; and
- The proposed therapist or counsellor is eligible.

Situation 2:

- The request for funding was previously approved, and an updated application or request has been submitted to change or add additional eligible service providers.

Situation 3:

- The request for funding was previously approved, and the eligible client requests extended access to their Therapy and Counselling Fund beyond the five year period. Requests will be considered in alignment with the Policy on Therapy and Counselling Fund Extensions.

The Client Relations Committee also delegates decision-making authority of administration of the Support Persons Therapy and Counselling Fund to College staff provided the following criteria has been met with respect to the funding application being reviewed:

- The associated funding request for the client has already been approved by staff or the Committee.

In straightforward cases College staff may determine ineligibility without a referral to the Client Relations Committee.

A referral from staff to the Client Relations Committee is required under any circumstance not outlined above.

The Client Relations Committee will be regularly informed of the number of applications, approvals by staff, and the administration of funding.

PROCESS

Following an application to CRPO's Therapy and Counselling Fund, staff will review the application to determine whether it warrants a referral to the Client Relations Committee. Eligibility for funding will be measured against the above criteria.

In accordance with CRPO by-law 23.01, should an application be deemed eligible for funding, staff or the Client Relations Committee may require therapists providing therapy or counselling to those seeking funding to provide a written statement, signed in each case by the therapist or counsellor and by the individual seeking funding, which shall contain the following:

- Details of the therapist or counsellor's training and experience;
- Confirmation that the therapy or counselling is being provided to the client; and
- Confirmation that the funds received will be devoted only to therapy or counselling that is related in whole or in part to the alleged sexual abuse by the registrant.