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 Therapy and Counselling Fund Extensions

PURPOSE

To establish a consistent and transparent policy and process regarding Therapy and Counselling Fund extension requests.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the consideration of extension requests related to Therapy and Counselling Fund access.

DEFINITIONS

Client: For the purposes of sexual abuse, an individual remains a client for a period of five years following the termination of care.[1]

Sexual abuse: Under the Regulated Health Professionals Act (1991) sexual abuse is defined as:
(a) sexual intercourse or other forms of physical sexual relations between the member and the patient[2],
(b) touching, of a sexual nature, of the patient by the member, or
(c) behaviour or remarks of a sexual nature by the member towards the patient

Sexual nature does not include touching, behaviour, or remarks of a clinical nature appropriate to the services provided.

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

The College offers and facilitates a Therapy and Counselling Fund for clients who allege to have been sexually abused by a registrant. Clients have access to the fund for five years, unless an extension request is granted.

Extensions may be granted if the individual Therapy and Counselling Fund has unused funds following the five-year period.

Requests will be considered against the following criteria:

1. Whether a defined extension period (e.g. six months) was requested,

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[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)

[2] The Regulated Health Professionals Act (1991) uses the term "patient," while CRPO uses the term "client." The term "client" is used throughout this document, with exceptions for the formal definition quoted from the RHPA.

2. Client submitted reasoning that helps the College understand what prevented or delayed prior and complete utilization of the fund,
3. Whether the College conduct matter remains ongoing, and
4. Whether the maximum funding amount has been reached.

Requests for funding extensions are to be sent directly to the College. The College can be reached through any of the following:

a. Email: clientrelations@crpo.ca
b. Mail: College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO)
   375 University Avenue, Suite 800
   Toronto, ON M5G 2J5

The College will seek to respond to the request within five business days with a decision, request additional information or provide a timeline update.