



APPA MINI-CONFERENCE: PSYCHOLOGICAL REGULATION ACROSS THE ASIA PACIFIC

Legislation and Regulations of Psychology Licensure in the Philippines

Prof. Marc Eric S. Reyes, PhD, RPm, RPsy

APPA delegate for the Philippines and President of the Psychological Association of the Philippines

THE PSYCHOLOGY LAW IN THE PHILIPPINES

REPUBLIC ACT (RA) 10029

- ▶ This Act which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 3498 and House Bill No. 6512 which was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on December 14, 2009 and December 16, 2009, respectively.
- ▶ This Act regulates the practice of psychology and psychometrics in the Philippines geared towards nurturing a psychology professional and practitioner who is competent, upright, and assiduous. One whose standards of professional practice are excellent and globally competitive.
- ▶ The Act also intends to protect the public from inexperienced and untrained individuals offering psychological services.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF 2009

- ▶ The delivery of **psychological services** includes, but is not limited to:
 - (1) **psychological interventions:** psychological counseling, psychotherapy, psychosocial support, coaching, psychological debriefing, group processes and all other psychological interventions that involve the application of psychological principles to improve psychological functioning of individuals, families, groups and organizations;
 - (2) **psychological assessment:** gathering and integration of psychology-related data for the purpose of making a psychological evaluation, accomplished through a variety of tools, including individual tests, projective tests, clinical interview and other psychological assessment tools, for the purpose of assessing diverse psychological functions including cognitive abilities, aptitudes, personality characteristics, attitudes, values, interests, emotions and motivations, among others, in support of psychological counseling, psychotherapy and other psychological interventions; and
 - (3) **psychological programs:** development, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of psychological treatment for individuals and/or groups.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF 2009: "PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY"

LICENSURE IS ON TWO LEVELS:

- FOR THOSE WITH AT LEAST A MASTER'S DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY WHO CAN BE CALLED A **PSYCHOLOGIST (RPSY)**;
- THOSE WITH AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY WHO CAN WORK UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PSYCHOLOGIST, CALLED A **PSYCHOMETRICIAN (RPM)**.

Philippine Psychology Act of 2009

- ▶ **"Psychologist"** means a natural person who is duly registered and holds a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card as professional psychologist, issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology and the Professional Regulation Commission pursuant to this Act for the purpose of delivering the different psychological services defined in this Act.
- ▶ **"Psychometrician"** means a natural person who holds a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card as psychometrician issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology and the Professional Regulation Commission pursuant to this Act.
- ▶ Shall be authorized to do any of the following: Provided, **That such shall at all times be conducted under the supervision of a licensed professional psychologist:** (1) administering and scoring of objective personality tests, structured personality tests, excluding projective tests and other higher level forms of psychological tests; (2) interpreting results of the same and preparing a written report on these results; and (3) conducting preparatory intake interviews of clients for psychological intervention sessions

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF 2009: "RPSY & RPM"

ARTICLE V: LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS

Philippine Psychology Act of 2009

► **Section 11. Examinations Required**

All applicants for registration to practice psychology and psychometrics shall be required to pass a licensure examination for psychologists and psychometricians to be conducted by the Board in such places and dates, and subject to such requirements prescribed by the Commission.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF 2009:
“LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS”

► **Section 12. Qualifications of Applicants for the Licensure Examination for Psychologists.**

Any person may apply to take examination for registration and licensure as a psychologist after furnishing evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

- (a) Is a Filipino citizen, a permanent resident or a citizen of a foreign state/country which extends reciprocity to the Philippines relative to the practice of the profession;
- (b) Holds at least a master's degree in psychology conferred by a university, college or school in the Philippines or abroad recognized/accredited by the CHED and has obtained sufficient credits for the subjects covered in the examinations;
- (c) Has undergone a minimum of two hundred (200) hours of supervised practicum/internship/clinical experience related to services enumerated in paragraph (b) of Section 3 of the Act and under the auspices of a licensed psychologist or other licensed mental health professional;
- (d) Is of good moral character; and
- (e) Has not been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF
2009: "LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS"

► **Section 13. Qualifications of Applicants for the Licensure Examination for Psychometricians.**

Any person may apply to take the examination for registration and licensure as a psychometrician by furnishing evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

- (a) Is a Filipino citizen, a permanent resident or a citizen of a foreign state/country which extends reciprocity to the Philippines relative to the practice of the profession;
- (b) Holds at least a bachelor's degree in psychology conferred by a university, college or school in the Philippines or abroad recognized/accredited by the CHED and has obtained sufficient credits for the subjects covered in the examinations;
- (c) Is of good moral character; and
- (d) Has not been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF
2009: "LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS"

► **Section 14. Examination Subjects for Psychologists.** - The licensure examination for psychologists shall cover the following subjects:

- (a) Advanced Theories of Personality;
- (b) Advanced Abnormal Psychology;
- (c) Advanced Psychological Assessment; and
- (d) Psychological Counseling and Psychotherapy.

► **Section 15. Examination Subjects for Psychometricians.** - The licensure examinations for psychometricians shall cover the following subjects:

- (a) Theories of Personality;
- (b) Abnormal Psychology;
- (c) Industrial Psychology; and
- (d) Psychological Assessment.

The Board may recluster, rearrange, modify, add or exclude and prescribed subjects for psychologists and psychometricians as the need arises.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF
2009: "EXAMINATION SUBJECTS"

- ▶ **Section 18. Ratings in the Examination.** - To be qualified as having passed the licensure examination for psychologists and psychometricians, a candidate must have obtained a weighted general average of at least seventy-five percent (75%) for all subjects, with no grade lower than sixty percent (60%) in any given subject. An examinee who obtains a weighted general average of seventy-five percent (75%) or higher but obtains a rating below sixty percent (60%) in any given subject may retake such subjects within the next two (2) years, and upon obtaining a rating of at least seventy-five percent (75%) in each such subject, shall then be deemed to have passed the licensure examination.
- ▶ **Section 19. Report of Ratings.** - The Board shall submit to the Commission an official report detailing the ratings obtained by each examinee within ten (10) calendar days after the examination, unless such period is extended for just cause.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF 2009: "RATINGS"

ARTICLE V
REGISTRATION WITHOUT EXAMINATION

Philippine Psychology Act of 2009

▶ **Section 16. Registration Without Examination for Psychologists.**

A person who possesses the qualifications required to take the examination for registration as a psychologist pursuant to the provisions of this Act may be registered without examination:

Provided, **That the applicant files with the Board within three (3) years after its creation** an application for registration and issuance of certificate of registration and professional identification card by submitting credentials satisfactory to the Board that the applicant had, on or prior to the effectivity of the Act, fulfilled the requirements under either subparagraphs (a), (b) or (c) herein:

- ▶ (a) Obtained a doctoral degree in psychology and had accumulated three (3) years of work experience in the practice of psychology;
- ▶ (b) Obtained a master's degree in psychology and accumulated a minimum of five (5) years of work experience in the practice of psychology;
- ▶ (c) Psychologists or employees who hold positions as psychologists presently employed in various government or private agencies, who have a bachelor's degree in psychology, accumulated a minimum of ten (10) years of work experience in the practice of psychology as a psychologist, and who have updated their professional education in various psychology-related functions.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF
2009: “RPSY WITHOUT EXAMINATION”

► **Section 17. Registration Without Examination for Psychometricians.**

A person who possesses the qualifications required to take the examination for registration as a psychometrician may be registered without examination:

Provided, **That the applicant files with the Board within three (3) years after its creation** an application for registration and issuance of a certificate of registration and professional identification card by submitting credentials satisfactory to the Board that the applicant before the effectivity of the Act had obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology and had accumulated a minimum of two (2) years full time work experience in the practice of psychometrics.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF
2009: “RPM WITHOUT EXAMINATION”

ARTICLE VI: REGISTRATION

Philippine Psychology Act of 2009

- ▶ **Section 20. Oath of Psychologists and Psychometricians.** - All successful examinees qualified for registration and all qualified applicants for registration without examination shall be required to take an oath to uphold the profession before any member of the Board or any officer of the Commission authorized to administer oaths, prior to entering the practice of psychology or psychometrics in the Philippines.
- ▶ **Section 21. Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card.** - A certificate of registration and professional identification card shall be issued to all successful examinees and registrants without examination upon compliance with all the legal requirements, including payment of fees, prescribed by the Commission. A professional identification card bearing the registration number, date of issuance and validity term of three (3) years, duly signed by the Chairperson of the Commission, shall likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the prescribed registration fee. Upon expiration of the professional identification card, the psychologist and psychometrician may renew the same upon proof of compliance with continuing education requirements prescribed by the Board and/or the Commission.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF 2009: “REGISTRATION”

► **Section 24. Foreign Reciprocity.**

No foreigner shall be admitted to the psychology or psychometrics licensure examinations unless he/she proves that the country of which he/she is a citizen either:

- (a) Admits Filipino citizens to the practice of psychology or psychometrics without need for registration and issuance of a certificate of registration/professional identification card;
- (b) Allows Filipino citizens to practice psychology or psychometrics without restriction; or
- (c) Allows Filipino citizens to practice the same after an examination on terms of strict and absolute equality with nationals of said country.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF
2009: “REGISTRATION”

► **Section 25. Practice through Special/Temporary Permit.**

Special/temporary permits may be issued by the Board, subject to the approval by the Commission and payment of appropriate fees, to the following persons:

- (a) Licensed psychologists or psychometricians from foreign countries/states who are internationally acknowledged specialists or outstanding experts in psychology or psychometrics. Provided, That their services are important and necessary either due to the lack or inadequacy of available local specialists or experts or in recognition of their potential contribution to the promotion and advancement of the practice of psychology or psychometrics through transfer of technology;
- (b) Licensed psychologists or psychometricians from foreign countries/states whose services shall be free and offered exclusively to indigent patients in a particular hospital, center or clinic; and
- (c) Licensed psychologists or psychometricians from foreign countries/states employed as exchange professors to teach psychology or psychometrics in schools, colleges, universities offering psychology or psychometrics courses or programs.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF
2009: “REGISTRATION”

► **Section 25. Practice through Special/Temporary Permit.**

The permit shall detail the conditions thereof which shall, among other things, include the effectivity period of not more than one (1) year subject to renewal and the specific place of practice such as the clinic, hospital, center, school, college, university offering the course of psychology or psychometrics. The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, shall prescribe rules and regulations on the implementation of this particular section.

PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF
2009: “REGISTRATION”

PRC Registered Psychologists (RPsy)

- ▶ Approximately **1,459** (data from PRC)
+ **226** (as of Feb 2022) = **1,685**

PRC Registered Psychometricians (RPm)

- ▶ Approximately **25,244** (data from PRC)
+ **969** (as of Feb 2022) = **26,213**



PAP is the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) who works with the Psychology Professional Regulatory Board (PsyPRB), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) of the Philippines

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LISTENING

Prof. Marc Eric S. Reyes, PhD, RPm, RPsy

APPA delegate for the Philippines and President of the Psychological Association of the Philippines