

SP-C006
Duty to Report Standard
Approved Date: From NSCC 11/2025
Amended: migration related edits 2026
Next Review Date: 2027

This standard carries forward and replaces the previous NSCC Duty to Report Standard (2025) upon migration to the Regulated Health Professions Act.

Note to Readers: *In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that governs chiropractic and naturopathic practice in Nova Scotia, the legislation prevails.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nova Scotia Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulator (**NSCNR**) is the regulatory authority for the practice of chiropractic and naturopathy in the Province of Nova Scotia. The NSCNR serves and protects the public interest to advance ethical and competent chiropractic and naturopathic care in Nova Scotia.

2. APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

This Standard of Practice shall apply to all chiropractors and naturopathic doctors registered with the NSCNR (the “**Registrant**” or collectively the “**Registrants**”).

The administration and application of this Standard of Practice shall be the responsibility of the NSCNR. Should the NSCNR become aware of any alleged breach or noncompliance with this Standard of Practice, it may take any action it considers appropriate, including but not limited to:

- a. contacting a Registrant to request the immediate remedy of any suspected breach or non-compliance; and
- b. filing a formal complaint under the *Regulated Health Professions Act* regarding the suspected breach or non-compliance.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Standard of Practice are to uphold public interest and safety by:

- a. informing registrants of reporting requirements related to their practice competency.
- b. informing registrants of their reporting requirements related to incompetence and misconduct of health care providers, including chiropractors and naturopathic doctors.

4. DEFINITIONS

The following terms have the following meanings when used in this Standard of Practice:

“**incompetence**”, in relation to a registrant, means a lack of competence demonstrated in the registrant’s care of a client or delivery of regulated health services that, having regard to all the circumstances, rendered the registrant unsafe to practise at the time of such care of the client or



delivery of regulated health services or that renders the registrant unsafe to continue in practice without remedial assistance

“**professional misconduct**” has the same meaning as the Regulated Health Professions Act and includes such conduct or acts relevant to the practice of a regulated health profession that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional, including

- (a) failing to maintain the standards of practice;
- (b) failing to adhere to any codes of ethics adopted by the regulatory body;
- (c) abusing a person verbally, physically emotionally or sexually;
- (d) misappropriating property, including drugs, belonging to a client or an employer;
- (e) inappropriately influencing a client to make or change a legal document;
- (f) abandoning a client;
- (g) neglecting to provide care to a client;
- (h) failing to exercise appropriate discretion with respect to the disclosure of confidential information;
- (i) falsifying records;
- (j) inappropriately using licensing status for personal gain;
- (k) promoting for personal gain any drug, device, treatment, procedure, product or service that is unnecessary, ineffective or unsafe;
- (l) publishing, or causing to be published, any communication that is false, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading;
- (m) engaging or assisting in fraud, misrepresentation, deception or concealment of a material fact when applying for or securing registration or a licence or taking any examination provided for in this Act, including using fraudulently procured credentials; and
- (n) taking or using a designation or a derivation or abbreviation thereof, or describing the person’s activities as being part of the practice of a regulated health profession in any communication, including verbally, unless the referenced activity falls within the practice of the profession;



5. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- a) All registrants of the NSCNR are responsible and accountable to practice safely, competently, and ethically.
- b) All registrants of the NSCNR have a legal and ethical duty to report incompetent, unethical, conduct unbecoming or impaired practice if they have reasonable grounds to believe that an NSCNR registrant:
 - i. has engaged in professional misconduct, incompetence or conduct unbecoming the profession.
 - ii. is incapacitated; or
 - iii. is practicing in a manner that otherwise constitutes a danger to the public.
- c) All registrants must immediately notify the Registrar of the NSCNR upon becoming aware that their own health may be affecting their ability to practice safely.
- d) Registrants must notify the appropriate regulatory authority if they have reasonable grounds to believe that another health care practitioner:
 - i. has engaged in professional misconduct, incompetence or conduct unbecoming the profession.
 - ii. is incapacitated; or
 - iii. is practicing in a manner that otherwise constitutes a danger to the public.
- e) There is a legal obligation to report specific situations to an external authority such as law enforcement, or to another agency, as required by provincial or federal legislation (e.g., reporting child abuse in accordance with the Children and Family Services Act or reporting an adult in need of protection in accordance with the Adult Protection Act). All registrants of the NSCNR are accountable to know when and to whom to report these situations as appropriate.
 - i. Child Abuse
 - ii. Protection of Vulnerable Adults; Adult Protection; Protection for Persons in Care
 - iii. Child Pornography
 - iv. Gunshot wounds
 - v. There is no duty to report sexual assault in adults unless there is a concern arising within legislative duty to report. Examples may include (but are not limited to):
 - a. child at risk in the home during the assault,
 - b. sexual assault by a caregiver in a nursing home,
 - c. gunshot wound involved in sexual assault. (There is a duty to report that an individual has been treated for a gunshot wound. In the event the report



needs to be made, do not disclose that sexual assault has occurred without the individual's consent).

6. EXEMPTIONS

There are no applicable exemptions to this Standard of Practice.

7. RESTRICTIONS

There are no applicable restrictions to this Standard of Practice.

8. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Regulated Health Professions Act
Regulated Health Professions General Regulations
Regulations Respecting Chiropractic and Naturopathy
NSCNR BYLAWS
NSCNR CODE OF ETHICS

9. RELATED REFERENCES

Children and Family Services Act
<https://novascotia.ca/coms/families/changestocfsa/Duty-to-Report.pdf>

Protecting Vulnerable Adults
<https://novascotia.ca/dhw/ccs/protecting-vulnerable-adults.asp#:~:text=If%20you%20know%20of%20an,danger%2C%20please%20call%20911%20immediately.>