

The information provided in this Practice Support checklist is intended to provide general guidance to assist registrants in identifying issues and options that should be considered, and implementing strategies to address issues, resolve problems and improve practice, with respect to a particular aspect of psychology practice. No checklist can anticipate all variables that might be relevant to a specific professional decision or circumstance, but the checklist can provide general guidance to registrants dealing with the identified practice issue. Registrants are also invited to contact the Practice Support Service with any questions.

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This checklist does not establish standards, limits or conditions for registrants' practice for the purposes of the Health Professions Act, and it is not intended to impose mandatory requirements to the extent that such requirements are not established under the Code of Conduct. In the case of any inconsistency between this checklist and any Code standard, the Code standard governs. The final decision on the course of action to be taken in any practice situation is made by the registrant, and checklists are not intended as a substitute for the professional judgment and responsibility of the registrant. Exclusive reliance on checklists is imprudent, as every practice decision depends on its own particular circumstances.

This document may not be copied in part. Registrants wishing to copy it in its entirety must keep this disclaimer attached and must identify it as a College of Psychologists of B.C. Practice Support document. For ease of reference, select Code standards are indicated in brackets following checklist items. Registrants are obligated to consider any other Code standards and legislation that may be relevant to a specific practice situation. All references to the Code of Conduct and other legislation is current to the date indicated at the beginning of each checklist.

Disaster Response Services Checklist

This document is intended to assist registrants who are considering providing disaster response services, including Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR). PFA and SPR are specific forms of psychological service that may differ from a registrant's regular practice but that are offered in the context of a professional relationship, and the *Code of Conduct* provides clear requirements to guide decision-making. The services are psychoeducational in nature and do not create a therapist-client relationship, but they create a professional relationship and *Code of Conduct* requirements apply. Relevant Code standards are indicated in brackets following the checklist items.

- I have the requisite education, training, and experience to offer disaster response services. **(3.5, 3.25)**
- If I am considering offering PFA, I have completed training in Psychological First Aid. **(3.5, 3.9, 3.11, 3.21, 3.24, 3.25)**
- If I am considering offering SPR, I have completed training in Skills for Psychological Recovery. **(3.5, 3.9, 3.11, 3.21, 3.24, 3.25)**
- I understand the limits of PFA and SPR, and how these specialized services differ from other psychological services offered by me. **(3.3, 3.9, 3.24, 3.25)**
- I maintain current knowledge of professional and regulatory developments within the area of disaster response services, including my specific services as relevant. **(3.2, 3.3, 3.7, 3.8)**
- In the event I anticipate providing PFA/SPR services to individuals where differences of race, national origin, religion, culture, language, or any other factor might affect my ability to provide culturally appropriate and competent services, I will obtain the training, experience, consultation, and/or supervision necessary to ensure my services are competent and in accordance with the welfare of the service recipients. **(3.23, 3.24, 5.1, 5.26)**
- I have considered my own biases, prejudices, and stereotypes I might hold that could affect my service provision, and I will actively take steps to avoid stereotyping or discriminating against others and will respect the rights of others to hold values, attitudes, and opinions that differ from my own. **(5.7, 5.14, 5.31)**
- For the provision of PFA or SPR via telepsychology, I have considered and addressed potential security risks associated with the technology. **(3.30, 5.1, 5.26. See also the CPBC Practice Support Telepsychology Checklist.)**
- I have ensured my liability insurance covers my intended services, whether that is in person or via a telepsychology medium. **(3.30, College Bylaw s.61)**
- If a telepsychology service recipient is in another jurisdiction, I am familiar with the relevant laws and regulatory requirements in the other jurisdiction and will be in compliance with these. **(3.8, 3.30, 18.1)**
- If I am offering in-person services in another jurisdiction, I am familiar with the relevant laws and regulatory requirements in the other jurisdiction and will be in compliance with these. **(3.8, 18.1)**

- I will identify myself as a volunteer psychologist and obtain informed consent to provide my services. (4.1, 4.2, 4.6, 6.1, 7.10, 8.1, 9.1. See also the CPBC Practice Support Informed Consent and Assent Checklist.)
- I will ensure that my informed consent process is clear regarding confidentiality limits and my required record keeping, and I will record information that is consistent with my informed consent process. (4.1, 4.2, 4.6, 7.19, 8.3, 13.6)
- I will treat information as confidential and will only disclose information that is consistent with my legal obligation to do so. (6.2, 6.7, 6.8, 6.11, 7.17, 18.1)
- I will ensure that recipients of my PFA/SPR services understand the limits of our relationship and of my service. (4.2, 4.6, 4.9, 4.10, 5.2, 8.1)
- I have taken steps to familiarize myself with appropriate resources so am prepared in the event anyone with whom I am speaking requires more than the PFA/SPR services I am offering. (3.3, 3.6, 3.25, 5.8, 8.2)
- I am aware of the potential to cause harm if I engage in therapeutic interactions with the recipients of my service and will not do this when offering PFA/SPR. (3.25, 5.1, 5.26)
- I will avoid altering the terms of my relationship with any PFA/SPR service recipient such that a dual role is created, unless this is absolutely unavoidable. (4.5, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.10, 5.26, 8.3, 10.5)
- In the event I will be providing any public presentations as part of my SPR services, I will ensure the information I present is fair, accurate, and reflects appropriate current professional knowledge, and that my listeners are not encouraged to infer that I have established a personal professional relationship with them. (3.13, 10.14, 10.15)
- I am aware that I should only offer disaster response services outside of my home community under the auspices of an appropriate disaster relief organization in order to ensure that I do not inadvertently add to the need for disaster response resources or otherwise cause unintended negative consequences for the community that has experienced the disaster. (3.7, 3.25, 5.1, 5.26)
- I am aware that organizations sponsoring disaster response services may not be familiar with my obligations as a regulated health professional, and I will take steps to clarify my obligation to adhere to Code standards. (7.18)
- I am aware of the possible negative consequences to myself of offering disaster response services and have a plan actively to monitor my well-being, and to withdraw from services if I become impaired. (3.25, 3.27, 3.28, 3.29)
- I will maintain regular contact with another professional with whom I can debrief and consult while deployed to provide disaster response services, and after my volunteering is completed. (3.25, 3.28)
- I am aware of the potential need for enhanced self-care practices during and after volunteering in disaster response efforts. (3.25, 3.28)