



**Debbie Bright**  
COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGIST

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**MANUAL IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 51 OF THE PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO  
INFORMATION ACT, 2 OF 2000,**

**AND**

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES PERTAINING TO THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL  
INFORMATION ACT, 4 OF 2013.**

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## 1. Definitions

In this document,

- 1.1. **"Contact Details"** means all or any of the following:
  - 1.1.1. Postal Address: 7 Faraday Road, Sunninghill, Sandton, 2191;
  - 1.1.2. Street Address: 7 Faraday Road, Sunninghill, Sandton;
  - 1.1.3. Phone number: 083 685 1640;
  - 1.1.4. E- mail address: [debbie@debbiebright.co.za](mailto:debbie@debbiebright.co.za).
- 1.2. **" Head of Practice"** means Debra Rahimi (*née* Bright), a psychologist  
duly registered with the HPCSA under number  
PS0090107 and practising under Board of health care  
funders number 0180203;
- 1.3. **"HPA"** means the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974;
- 1.4. **"HPCSA"** means the Health Professions Council of South Africa;
- 1.5. **"HRC"** means the Human Rights Commission;
- 1.6. **"PAIA"** means the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2 of 2000;
- 1.7. **"Practice Website"** means the website of the Practice to be found at  
<https://debbiebright.co.za>;
- 1.8. **"Information Officer"** means, for purposes of POPI, the Head of Practice  
who is duly registered as such in terms of Section  
55(2) of POPI with registration number 5106/2021-  
2022/IRRTT;
- 1.9. **"Information Regulator"** means the information regulator brought in  
existence by Section 39 of POPI;
- 1.10. **"Patient"** means any person of whom records are being kept in the  
Practice;
- 1.11. **"Personal Information"** carries the same meaning as ascribed to this  
phrase in Section 1 of POPI;
- 1.12. **"POPI"** means the Protection of Personal Information Act, 4 of 2013; and

- 1.13. **"Practice"** means the professional psychology practice conducted exclusively by the Head of Practice as a sole proprietorship and the private body (for purposes of PAIA) to which this manual relates;
- 1.14. **"Website Host"** means Hostgator and whose web address is <https://www.hostgator.com;>
- 1.15. In this manual:
- 1.15.1. capitalised words and phrases (apart from the normal spelling rules and unless the context within which such words and phrases clearly indicate the contrary) carry the meaning ascribed to them in the definitions section of this clause 1;
- 1.15.2. the clause headings are for convenience and shall be disregarded in construing this manual;
- 1.15.3. unless the context indicates a contrary intention, the singular shall include plural and *vice versa*;
- 1.15.4. any reference to a statute, regulation or other legislation shall be a reference to that statute, regulation, or other legislation as at the signature date of this manual; and
- 1.15.5. where any number of days is to be calculated from a day, such number shall be calculated as excluding such day and commencing on the next business day. If the last day of such number so calculated falls on a day which is not a business day, the last day shall be deemed to be the next succeeding day which is a business day.

## **2. Availability of this manual**

- 2.1. This manual is available for inspection by appointment and during office hours at the street address of the Practice as per the Contact Details.
- 2.2. This manual is also available from the Practice Website, as well as from the HRC (whose obligations in terms of POPI stands to be taken over by the Information Regulator).

### **3. How to contact the Practice**

- 3.1. The Practice should be contacted through its Information Officer at any of the Contact Details;

### **4. Guide to the use of PAIA**

The HRC is obligated, in terms of S10 of PAIA, to compile and publish a guide on how to make use of such Act. Such a guide has been compiled and it contains information required by a person wishing to exercise any right contemplated by PAIA. It is available in all the official languages. Any person who wishes to know more about how to exercise any rights contemplated in PAIA must direct queries to:

**The South African Human Rights Commission,  
PAIA Unit  
Research and Documentation Department**

Postal address: Private bag 2700, Houghton, 2041, South Africa  
Telephone: +27 11 8773600  
Fax: +27 11 4030625  
E-mail: [PAIA@sahrc.org.za](mailto:PAIA@sahrc.org.za)  
Website: [www.sahrc.org.za](http://www.sahrc.org.za)

### **5. Categories of documents available without formal request**

At this stage, no notice(s) has/have been published on the categories of records that are automatically available without a person having to request access in terms of PAIA.

### **6. Categories of records kept in accordance with legislation**

Apart from confidential Patient records kept in accordance with the provisions of the HPA, POPI and the rules of the HPCSA, the Practice does not keep any category of records as envisaged by PAIA.

### **7. Protection of Personal Information – privacy policy and procedures**

- 7.1. The very nature of the business conducted by the Practice requires the gathering of Personal Information from a Patient and other relevant person/s (the latter being case dependent). All Personal Information gathered and pertaining to a Patient is subject to an obligation of confidentiality by virtue of the profession under which the Practice falls, as well as South African legislation and the rules of the HPCSA;

- 7.2. By virtue of the provisions of Section 32(1)(a) of POPI, most, if not all, Personal Information gathered from and regarding Patients of the Practice will be exempt from the general POPI provisions prohibiting the collection and processing of such Personal Information. Apart from this exemption, it is a policy of the Practice to obtain the consent of all relevant parties before gathering and/or processing Personal Information;
- 7.3. All Personal Information provided will be treated as strictly confidential, with the following exceptions:
- 7.3.1. where Personal Information is required by the Patient's medical aid (where applicable) to process claims for treatment provided by the Practice, or for the Practice's administration;
  - 7.3.2. where the Practice is obliged by law to divulge information;
  - 7.3.3. where consultation with other mental health professionals is viewed as being necessary;
  - 7.3.4. where the Patient poses a danger to him- or her- self, or another person;
  - 7.3.5. where the Patient's referral source or family doctor require feedback regarding his or her treatment. In such a case, information will only be supplied once discussed with the Patient or guardian (where applicable); or
  - 7.3.6. If a member of the Practice tests positive for COVID-19, it is possible that the Practice might be required to provide a list of people who might have met the member concerned. Such a list might have to include the details of affected Patients;
- 7.4. About the treatment of minors: doctors, teachers, and other persons (depending on the Patient) may need to be consulted to gain additional information. Furthermore, such persons may be better able to support and help the Patient if the Practice is allowed to communicate essential information or management strategies to them. Should the Head of Practice believe that Personal Information regarding the Patient should be

shared with any of the aforesaid categories of persons care and discretion will be used, and the guardian and Patient will first be consulted.

- 7.5. All Personal Information pertaining to a Patient is collected by the Head of Practice from the Patient during consultations or, in exceptional circumstances, from other relevant persons indicated by the Patient (and/or his/her guardian, where applicable). In some instances, Personal Information can also be provided via the Practice's website for which all reasonable protective measures have been take;
- 7.6. The Personal Information collected will be used exclusively to direct the Patient's treatment to reach a desired outcome;
- 7.7. The Head of Practice is responsible for maintaining the security of Personal Information collected;
- 7.8. All Personal Information is stored in a safe environment and, where applicable, in encrypted electronic format;
- 7.9. All Personal Information collected will be stored for a period of 6 (six) years as from the date on which the Patient ceases receiving treatment from the Practice or as otherwise directed by the HPCSA. Hereafter, the Personal Information will be destroyed, again in accordance with the guidelines provided by the HPSCA;
- 7.10. Should the Practice experience a Personal Information breach, affected Patients as well as the Information Regulator will be advised thereof as soon as practically possible;
- 7.11. Patients will be given access to their Personal Information only upon receipt of an express written request and/or consent (given by the Patient, or a guardian of the Patient, where applicable) to disclose the Personal Information concerned to a person nominated in the written document;
- 7.12. The Website Host has provided the Practice with an SSL certificate to the effect that all Personal Information that might be collected from the website is kept secure and confidential; and

- 7.13. Drafting of reports, letters, etc, will only be done on receipt of the express written request and consent of the Patient (or a guardian, where applicable).

**8. Procedure in terms of PAIA for a request for access to records**

- 8.1. Any person who contemplates requesting medical information of Patients of the Practice, should first consider the implications of Section 61 (access to health and other records) as well as Chapter 4 (grounds for refusal of access to records) of PAIA.
- 8.2. The requester must complete "Form C" as published in accordance with Section 53 of PAIA and submit this form, together with the specified request fee, to the Information Officer at any of the relevant Contact Details;
- 8.3. Form C is enclosed with this manual for ease of access;
- 8.4. The requester must ensure that Form C:
- 8.4.1. provides sufficient particulars to enable the Head of Practice to properly identify -
    - 8.4.1.1. the requester; and
    - 8.4.1.2. the record/s requested;
    - 8.4.1.3. indicate which form of access is required,
    - 8.4.1.4. specify a postal address or fax number of the requester in the Republic;
    - 8.4.1.5. identify the right that the requester is seeking to exercise or protect, and
    - 8.4.1.6. provide an explanation of why the requested record is required for the exercise or protection of that right,
  - 8.5. If in addition to a written reply, the requester wishes to be informed of the decision on the request in any other manner, Form C must clearly state that manner and provide the necessary particulars to be informed in such other manner;



- 8.6. If the request is made on behalf of another person, the requester must (in addition to Form C) submit documentary proof, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Head of the Practice, of the capacity in which he/she is making the request; and if such request is made on behalf of a Patient, the Patient's original written consent to provide the requested records to the requester must be supplied. In addition, the authenticity of such written consent must be proved to the reasonable satisfaction of the Head of Practice.
- 8.7. The requester will be notified by the Head of Practice of the amount of the prescribed fee to be paid and a request will only be further processed upon receipt of such prescribed fee.
- 8.8. The prescribed forms and fees for requests to private bodies are available on the website of the South African Human Rights Commission at [www.sahrc.org.za](http://www.sahrc.org.za) and the website of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development [www.doj.gov.za](http://www.doj.gov.za).



(full signature)

Name: Debra Rahimi (*née* Bright)  
Designation: Head of Practice

Date: 29 June 2021

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