



Society of Radiographers of South Africa

www.sorsa.org.za
sorsaoffice@gmail.com
sorsapresident@gmail.com

4 February 2024

Dr C. Clark
RCT Professional Board Chairperson
RCTBoard@hpcsa.co.za

Dear Dr Clark

GUIDELINES FOR RENDERING OF FORENSIC IMAGING SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA: 14 MARCH 2023

The Society of Radiographers of South Africa (SORSA) received the above guidelines on 22 May 2023. These guidelines are in the public domain. In terms of our understanding of the contents of the above it seems that some sections need to be clarified through appropriate amendments to the document. The areas to consider are described below.

- Reference is made to narcotic packing in section 3.2. Bullet 1 states “Human narcotic packing (drug or diamond smuggling)”. SORSA queries whether diamonds are included in the legal definition of narcotics.
- The Introduction of the above guidelines states “This document serves to provide guidelines for the rendering of forensic imaging including post-mortem forensic imaging services by diagnostic radiographers in South Africa. When rendering forensic imaging services, radiographers need to be familiar with and operate strictly within the Scope of the Profession as well as the Scope of Practice for Diagnostic Radiography. This document must be read in conjunction with other applicable laws and regulations as well as the requisite ethical rules for Radiography”. It is unclear why animal narcotic packing is referenced in section 3.2 since veterinary radiography is excluded from a diagnostic radiographer’s scope of practice and the regulations defining the scope of the profession.
- Section 6.1 states “All employers should have a clear Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in place for the rendering of post-mortem forensic imaging services”. The 14 November 2022 SORSA comments to the RCTPB stated the following: “The question to consider is: does all employers refer to public and private sector? How does this relate to the legislation that pertains to post-mortem services with respect to forensic radiography? SORSA requests a copy of the relevant legislation indicating that post-mortem services with respect to forensic radiography pertains to both the state and public sector”. Diagnostic radiographers are employed by the state, private sector, vendors, NGOs and universities. SORSA again requests a copy of the relevant legislation pertaining to forensic services that includes both public and private imaging sectors with respect to post-mortem services.

We wish to express our disappointment with the RCTPB’s failure to acknowledge the extensive contributions of SORSA in terms of forensic radiography. We stated the following in our 14 November 2022 email to the RCTPB. “We are of the view that the 'guidelines' are unclear and need major revisions as well as language editing. The Vancouver referencing system must also be applied accurately. SORSA is willing to comment on the revised document/s.

The society also requests that the HPCSA PBRCT in its final document acknowledges the extensive comments and suggestions from SORSA". Acknowledgement sections in HPCSA documents are common. One example of this is the HPCSA booklets. As cited above a request for acknowledgement was included in our November 2022 submission to the RCTPB.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Riaan van de Venter', written over a vertical line.

Riaan van de Venter
SORSA President

cc: The Radiological Society of South Africa (RSSA)
admin@rssa.co.za