

## LAW ON PSYCHOTHERAPY

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For a long period of time we were faced with indifference of legislature about psychotherapy. There is no doubt that psychotherapy is an independent activity, however, so far, psychotherapy was not regulated by any legislations.

Only regulation that mentioned psychotherapy is Curriculum on Training of Medical Doctors in which psychotherapy is defined as one of the special competences (specialty) in psychiatry.

In Republic of Croatia, beside psychotherapists, there are some other experts involved (psychologists, therapists, sociologists ...). They have completed a domestic or a foreign school of psychotherapy and acquired professional qualifications to provide psychotherapy. Since the Regulation on Training of Medical Doctors only applies to doctors, psychotherapeutic work of other professionals is not yet regulated by any law.

Realizing the need to enact legislation that would regulate psychotherapy as an independent activity, the Ministry of Health and Welfare (now the Ministry of Health) established a working group in January 2010. Their task was to prepare a draft of Law on Psychotherapy. Drafts was later, following the in-

structions of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, revised as Ordinance of psychotherapy. Subsequently, it was decided that the Ordinance of psychotherapy will ultimately be passed by the Ministry of Health.

When Ordinance of psychotherapy draft was created, several important issues were imposed about the quality of psychotherapy. Firstly, defining the term psychotherapy or psychotherapy treatment includes the healing, cure, aiding, or path to maturation. Opinions on this issue are divided. Also, professional qualifications and skills that a person who wants to perform psychotherapy must have are very important.

Therefore, If we want properly organize the appropriate performance of psychotherapy as a self-employed, we have to establish appropriate regulations and thus also affect all those self-proclaimed psychotherapist and psychotherapist who wish to engage in psychotherapy without satisfying indeed necessary and indispensable criteria and standards recognized and accepted by the European Union and the EAP (European Association of psychotherapists).