

The SAMLA Review

November 2020

Newsletter of the South African Medico-Legal Association
Non-Profit Company reg No 2005/013822/08

<https://medicolegal.org.za/index.php>



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SAMLA: A Non-Profit Company

In 2019, the Board of SAMLA took a decision to transform the Association from its informal status to function, instead, as a registered non-profit company.

SAMLA is intent on the professionalisation of medico-legal practice. SAMLA intends to become the only professional body in South Africa to register Medico-Legal Practitioners as professionals in the field of medico-legal practice.

A Medico-Legal Practitioner is an individual who works in the medico-legal space, who is in good standing with his or her primary professional regulatory body and who has volunteered him/herself to peer review, and who has committed him/herself to SAMLA's unique code of conduct in medico-legal practice.

SAMLA is in the final stages of its application to the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) for registration of our organisation. To make the application to SAQA, SAMLA had to become a formal registered company.

The Board of SAMLA, which comprises volunteers only, has spent the bulk of the past 10 months of its administrative function on the formalisation of SAMLA as a non-profit company with CIPC, and on its application to SAQA. The process is arduous and time-consuming, but the Board of SAMLA firmly believes that this process is in the interests of medico-legal practice in South Africa.



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

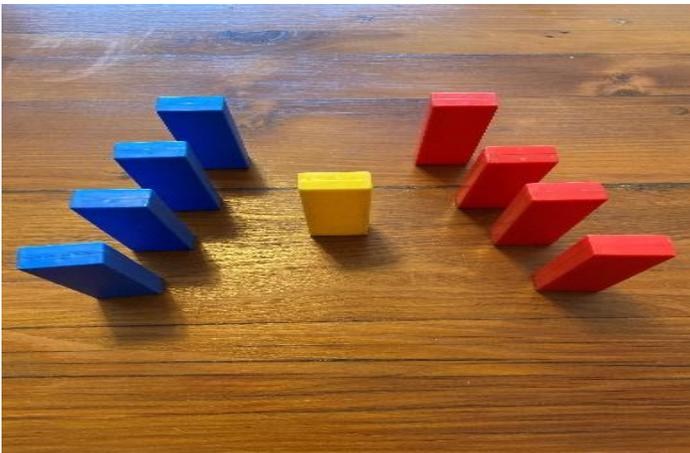


SAMLA's pilot mediation projects

Mediation is one form of alternate dispute resolution that has not been traditionally encountered in medico-legal work, and Rule 41A has brought mediation into prominence. SAMLA's Board agreed to establish a series of pilot projects to *establish guidelines on mediation in the medico-legal space*.

Mediations for these pilot projects are being conducted by volunteers who are accredited mediators, in collaboration with the Gauteng Department of Health, as well as the RAF.

Several mediations have already been done, and guidelines that were written have undergone substantial changes. [The most recent version of the guidelines is available on the SAMLA website.](#)



If you are interested in joining the pilot projects, please contact info@samla.org.za

SAMLA does not train or accredit mediators.

SAMLA'S Register of Medico-Legal Mediators

As a service to the public, SAMLA provides the Register of Medical Mediators. Mediators listed on the SAMLA Register of Medical Mediators are accredited mediators, who are committed to contributing their professional services to the mediation of medical disputes in South Africa, including clinical negligence and personal injury disputes, as well as health sector commercial disputes.

SAMLA Registered Medical Mediators are expected to accept the provisions of the SAMLA MOI, pledge to act in accordance with the ethical standards of the SAMLA Code of Conduct, and to conduct mediations in accordance with the SAMLA Guidelines and Protocol for Medical Mediation. They have to be registered and be in good standing with their primary professional registration bodies and must be accredited by a SAMLA-approved mediation accreditation authority. They also are expected to be a member of SAMLA.

SAMLA Registered Medical Mediators hold themselves to a high ethical standard, and subject themselves to disciplinary procedures. If a SAMLA Registered Medical Mediator is considered to have acted unethically, any aggrieved party may lodge a complaint with SAMLA. In such cases the complaint will be referred to the SAMLA Disciplinary Panel for hearing in accordance with the disciplinary policy. However, any dissatisfaction with the professional conduct of a SAMLA Registered Medical Mediator may naturally be referred to the applicable Professional Registration Authority and/or to the applicable Mediation Accreditation Authority.

<https://medicolegal.org.za/verified-mediators.php>

**AMENDMENTS TO SAMLA'S
MEMORANDUM OF
INCORPORATION (MOI)**

The Board of SAMLA has approved amendments to the MOI. Please go to this link to preview the draft amended MOI. The vote on the resolutions to amend the MOI will occur at the AGM.

<https://forum.emlct.com/forum/main-forum/1706-proposed-amended-moi-of-the-south-african-medico-legal->

SAMLA's AGM will be held on Zoom on 5th December 2020 at 09h00. The agenda and login details will be e mailed to all Members closer to the time.

SAMLA's Register of Medico-Legal Practitioners

All members of SAMLA may apply to appear on SAMLA'S Register of Medico-Legal Practitioners.

To do this, one submits one's credentials to SAMLA's credentialing committee which comprises senior members of the legal and healthcare professions who have extensive experience in medico-legal practice. If the applicant's credentials satisfy the requirements specified, then that applicant may register as a Medico-Legal Practitioner. All members of SAMLA who appear on the register of Medico-Legal Practitioners commit themselves to SAMLA's code of ethics.

The details may be found on our website at <https://medicolegal.org.za/registered-practitioners.php>.

SAMLA is not a regulatory body and does not intend to be a regulatory body. The register is simply a list of Medico-Legal Practitioners who have volunteered themselves to peer review and who commit themselves to a code of conduct.

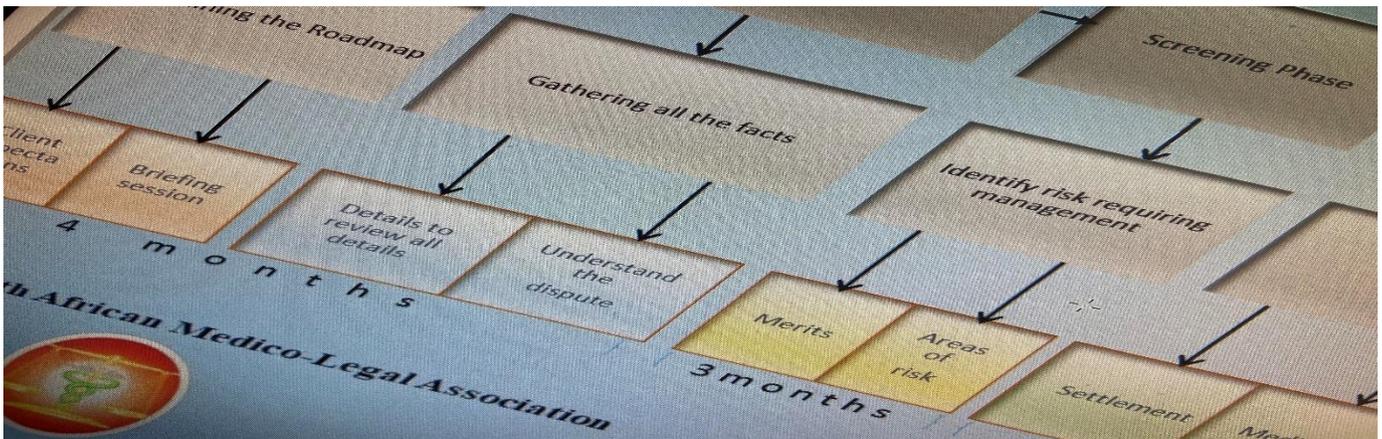
SAMLA believes that this register encourages ongoing education in the medico-legal sphere, and, in the absence of clear guidelines from existing regulatory bodies, committing to SAMLA's code of conduct will encourage ethical practice in the medico-legal space.

SAMLA IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



We invite you to visit and join our Facebook page and our LinkedIn page. Bookmark our website.

The SAMLA National Courses are online!



SAMLA offers [National Courses on Medico-Legal Practice](#) which have been designed and presented by the Faculty of SAMLA and accredited by the Faculty of Law at the University of Cape Town.

Foundations in Medico-Legal Practice is a short course. It cannot be viewed in part but only as a complete course. The course can be attended for CPD purposes, or it can be completed by attendees who write a once-off multiple choice examination and, if successful, are issued with a *certificate of completion* from the Faculty of Law at UCT. Completion of the Foundations Course in Medico-Legal Practice also qualifies attendees who are members of SAMLA for registration as Medico-Legal Practitioners. (Note that SAMLA recognises prior learning as well, and completion of the Foundations Course is not the only route to being able to qualify as a Medico-Legal Practitioner). We have been accredited by the HPCSA for 30 CPD points.

The 10 Practical Workshops in Medico-Legal Practice can be done individually or as a whole. The courses may be attended for CPD purposes or, if all assignments that are assigned are completed successfully by the attendees, a *certificate of completion* from UCT is awarded for each course completed.

Attendees who successfully complete the Foundations Course in Medico-Legal practice as well as the 10 Practical Workshops qualify for a *Certificate of Competence in Medico-Legal Practice* issued by the Faculty of Law at UCT.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the courses are all now online.

Our courses are fairly competitive, and we are doing all that we can to keep costs down. Our national online courses are CPD accredited and UCT accredited. All administration of the courses is controlled by Azlyn Creative. The courses are accessed through an independent website: please go to www.samla.co.za



UCT Law @ work
Professional Development Project

Azlyn
creative

