



# The South African Medico-Legal Association

NAME OF POLICY	<b>Entry into and advancement within the register of medico-legal practitioners</b>
DATE APPROVED	9 April 2020, Board meeting.
SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON OF BOARD	
DATE	9 April 2020

- 1. There are 3 tiers of membership on the Register of Medico-Legal Practitioners. These tiers are:**
  - 1.1 Tier 1, the entry level, entitled “Medico-Legal Practitioner”.
  - 1.2 Tier 2, the intermediate level, entitled “Advanced Medico-Legal Practitioner”.
  - 1.3 Tier 3, the highest level, entitled “Senior Medico-Legal Practitioner”.
- 2. Medico-Legal Practitioner: Criteria for entry into the register as a “Medico-Legal Practitioner”, via the “Knowledge Route”:**
  - 2.1 A professional in good standing with his or her own professional body (e.g. LPC or HPCSA);
  - 2.2 A SAMLA member in good standing;
  - 2.3 A pledge to practice according to the SAMLA Code of Conduct;
  - 2.4 Proof of reasonable knowledge of the field by having passed the SAMLA/UCT Foundations Course in Medico-Legal Practice, except that
  - 2.5 This last requirement may be waived for applicants who qualify under the SAMLA RPL policy.
- 3. Criteria for advancement to the level “Medico-Legal Practitioner”, via the “Recognition of Prior Learning Route”:**



- 3.1** A SAMLA Credentials Panel will be appointed by the Board. Applicants who believe that they do not need the SAMLA Foundations Course in Medico-Legal Practice will need to satisfy the Credentials Panel, by a process of peer review, that they have sufficient experience and that they practice to an acceptable standard.
- 3.2** At minimum this process will require:
  - 3.2.1** Five years' experience in medico-legal practice;
  - 3.2.2** Two references, one each from a reputable Medico-Legal lawyer and a reputable Medico-Legal expert. (Reputable Medico-Legal lawyers and experts will be determined by the panel in case of any uncertainty).
  - 3.2.3** The Credentials Panel may call for further proof of competence, for example by way of:
    - 3.2.3.1** provision of a written opinion on a set of facts;
    - 3.2.3.2** demonstration of the number of cases he or she has successfully managed;
    - 3.2.3.3** a portfolio of reports, judgments, etc. in which he or she featured;
    - 3.2.3.4** a live interview.
- 4. Advanced Medico-Legal Practitioner:**
  - 4.1** Criteria for advancement to the level "Advanced Medico-legal Practitioner", via the "Knowledge Route":
    - 4.1.1** At least 5 years' experience in his or her primary profession;
    - 4.1.2** At least 5 years' experience in medico-legal practice (the 2 may run concurrently);



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- 4.1.3** An application for advancement to the level “Advanced Medico-Legal Practitioner”, with that application supported by two referees, one being a reputable Medico-Legal Legal Practitioner and one being a reputable Medico-Legal Healthcare Practitioner, attesting to the applicant’s medico-legal competence;
  - 4.1.4** Successful completion of at least 6 of the 10 SAMLA/UCT workshops in medico-legal practice (current workshops 1 to 10);
  - 4.1.5** An appropriate portfolio of evidence, demonstrating competent medico-legal practice;
  - 4.1.6** The Credentialing Committee may, at its discretion, call for further evidence of competence.
- 4.2** Criteria for advancement to the level “Advanced Medico-legal Practitioner”, via the “RPL Route”:
- 4.2.1** At least 10 years’ experience in his or her primary profession;
  - 4.2.2** At least 10 years’ experience in medico-legal practice (the 2 may run concurrently);
  - 4.2.3** An application for advancement to Tier 2, with that application supported by two referees, one being a reputable Medico-Legal Legal Practitioner and one being a reputable Medico-Legal Healthcare Practitioner, attesting to the applicant’s medico-legal competence;
  - 4.2.4** An appropriate portfolio of evidence, demonstrating competent medico-legal practice.
  - 4.2.5** The Credentialing Committee may, at its discretion, call for further evidence of competence.



**5. Senior Medico-Legal Practitioner: Criteria for advancement to the level “Senior Medico-Legal Practitioner”. The only route for advancement to this tier is satisfaction of the following:**

- 5.1** At least 15 years’ experience in medico-legal practice;
- 5.2** The applicant must be a registered Advanced Medico-legal Practitioner
- 5.3** An application for advancement to Tier 3, with that application supported by two referees, one being a reputable Medico-Legal Legal Practitioner and one being a reputable Medico-Legal Healthcare Practitioner, attesting to the applicant’s medico-legal competence;
- 5.4** Ongoing teaching, mentoring and supervision of Medico-legal Practitioners.

Evidence of the following, as professionally pertinent:

- 5.5** Any other exceptional contribution the applicant is making to the field of medico-legal practice;
- 5.6** publications and/or citations;
- 5.7** peer reviews undertaken;
- 5.8** judgements;
- 5.9** an indication of the number of reports; opinions; heads of argument; advice on evidence/merits/quantum relevant to medico-legal practice.
- 5.10** The Credentialing Committee may at its discretion propose and motivate, with supporting evidence, to the SAMLA Board the meritorious advancement of an Advanced Medico-Legal Practitioner to the status of Senior Medico-legal Practitioner.