



South African Medico-Legal Association
In Pursuit of Excellence

**POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY INTO AND ADVANCEMENT
WITHIN THE REGISTER OF MEDICO-LEGAL PRACTITIONERS**

MAIN DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	
Name	Guidelines For Entry Into And Advancement Within The Register Of Medico-Legal Practitioners
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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 **Foundation 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. 3 years' experience in medico-legal practice.

3.2.2. 2 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)

4.1.3. An application for advancement to the level “Advanced Medico-Legal Practitioner”, with that application supported by 2 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. Successfully completed the Foundation Course in Medico-Legal Practice

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 2 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 2 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

Evidence of any three or more of the following, 5.4- 5.8 as professionally pertinent:

- 5.4. Ongoing teaching, mentoring and supervision of Medico-legal Practitioners
- 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

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Stellenberg', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Prof E Stellenberg
SAMLA National Chairperson

Date: 24 January 2025