The laws and standards, on one page

Which Ontario law governs what, the controlled act, CRPO's six standards and the Code of Ethics.

Study aid, not legal advice. Last verified against the official sources linked below on 11 November 2026.

1 Which law, for what

Law	What it governs	A key duty
RHPA, 1991, and its Code (Schedule 2)	The controlled acts; how colleges register, investigate and discipline	Report a regulated professional's sexual abuse of a patient (Code s. 85.1)
Psychotherapy Act, 2007	CRPO, the scope of practice, the authorized act, the protected titles	Protects "psychotherapist", "registered psychotherapist" and "registered mental health therapist" (s. 8 (1))
O. Reg. 317/12	Professional misconduct for RPs	Report another RP's unsafe practice to CRPO (s. 1, para. 39)
PHIPA, 2004	Personal health information: collection, use, disclosure, access, correction	Consent or legal authority for every disclosure; access within 30 days (s. 54 (2))
HCCA, 1996	Consent to treatment, capacity, substitute decision-makers	Capacity is for this decision, now, at any age (s. 4)
CYFSA, 2017	Child protection	Reasonable grounds to suspect, under 16: report to a children's aid society yourself, immediately (s. 125)
FLTCA, 2021; RHA, 2010	Long-term care homes; retirement homes	Anyone reports suspected harm to a resident, immediately (s. 28; s. 75)
Children's Law Reform Act	Parents' decisions for a child	Either parent may act, except a separated parent the child does not live with, until a separation agreement or order (s. 20 (3), (4))

2 The controlled act: all five, or it is not the act

1. Treating
2. by means of psychotherapy technique
3. delivered through a therapeutic relationship
4. a serious disorder of thought, cognition, mood, emotional regulation, perception or memory
5. that may seriously impair judgement, insight, behaviour, communication or social functioning

3 CRPO's six standards

1. Professional Conduct: College, titles, reporting, controlled acts, conflicts, dual relationships, abuse, referrals
2. Competence: consultation, supervision, referral
3. Client-Therapist Relationship: confidentiality, consent, electronic practice, unnecessary treatment, complaints, identity
4. Clinical Supervision: providing it, practising with it
5. Record-keeping and Documentation: records, reports, documents, storage
6. Business Practices: fees, advertising, ending services, closing a practice

4 The Code of Ethics: seven principles

- **Autonomy and Dignity of All Persons**: privacy, rights, diversity, boundaries.
- **Excellence in Professional Practice**: clients' best interests, competently.
- **Integrity**: inform openly, challenge biases, consult.
- **Justice**: fairness, against oppression and discrimination.
- **Responsible Citizenship**: mindful of your role; consult on conflicts of interest.
- **Responsible Research**: only with benefit, safety and informed consent.
- **Support for Colleagues**: respect, supervise responsibly, collaborate.

The standards are not statutes, but contravening one is professional misconduct (O. Reg. 317/12, para. 1).

Official sources: CRPO Practice Standards and CRPO Code of Ethics and RHPA, 1991 and Psychotherapy Act, 2007 and O. Reg. 317/12 and PHIPA and HCCA and CYFSA. Condensed from The Legal Framework, Mandatory Reporting and the Limits of Confidentiality and The CRPO Code of Ethics in Practice. Independent study aid, not legal advice, not affiliated with CRPO or COMPASS.