Affirming sexual orientation and gender identity

CRPO's Standard 3.7: no conversion or reparative therapy, the law for minors (RHPA s. 29.1), the federal offence, what is not affected (affirming support, identity exploration, gender-affirming care), and what CRPO expects in practice.

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

1 Standard 3.7

- Refrain from services such as **conversion or reparative therapy**, which seek to change or direct a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.
- CRPO affirms that there is a **range of sexual orientations** and gender identities.

2 Minors: RHPA s. 29.1

- No treatment, in providing health care, that seeks to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of a person **under 18** (s. 29.1 (1)).
- It does not apply if the person is **capable** with respect to the treatment and consents (s. 29.1 (3)).
- A **substitute decision-maker** cannot consent to it on the person's behalf (s. 29.1 (4)).
- CRPO: providing it is an offence, and therefore professional **misconduct**.

3 Adults, and the federal offence

- The Ontario Act does not cover adults or capable minors, but CRPO **strongly advises** refraining from such services for anyone.
- Efforts to change or direct orientation or identity are **not 'therapy'**, are not supported by the profession and do not respect the diversity and dignity of all persons.
- Knowingly causing a person to undergo conversion therapy is a criminal offence (Criminal Code **s. 320.102**).

4 Not affected

- Services that provide **acceptance, support or understanding**, or help with coping, social support or identity exploration or development (s. 29.1 (2)).
- Services related to **gender affirming** activities, such as living as one's gender identity, hormone treatment or surgery.

5 Meeting the standard

- ☐ Obtain **informed consent** to work with a client on issues of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- ☐ **Document** these discussions, including the client's goals and progress.
- ☐ Have adequate **training, experience and supervision** for this work (CRPO points, for example, to WPATH's Standards of Care, 7th edition).

Affirm, support and explore with the client; never try to change or direct who they are. For anyone under 18 who is not capable and consenting, the law forbids it; for everyone else, CRPO says refrain.

Official sources: CRPO Standard 3.7, Affirming Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and RHPA, 1991, s. 29.1. Condensed from Client-Therapist Relationship.
Independent study aid, not legal advice, not affiliated with CRPO or COMPASS.