Titles: RP, RP (Qualifying), credentials and "Doctor"

CRPO's Standard 1.2 on terms, titles and designations: the approved title for each class, how to write it with your credentials, specialty designations, the doctor title, students, and what the law protects.

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

1 The approved titles

Class	English	French
Registered Psychotherapist	Registered Psychotherapist or RP	Psychothérapeute autorisé(e) or PA
Qualifying	Registered Psychotherapist (Qualifying) or RP (Qualifying); not "RP(Q)"	Psychothérapeute autorisé(e) (stagiaire) or PA (stagiaire)
Temporary	Registered Psychotherapist (Temporary) or RP (Temporary)	Psychothérapeute autorisé(e) (temporaire) or PA (temporaire)
Inactive	Registered Psychotherapist (Inactive) or RP (Inactive)	Psychothérapeute autorisé (inactif) or autorisée (inactive); PA (inactif) or PA (inactive)

2 Writing it with your credentials (1.2.2)

- Place the regulated title **immediately after** your name and education credential, and it has prominence (CRPO's example: Sandra Smith, M.A., Registered Psychotherapist).
- Show only the **highest credential** earned that relates to the profession and meets established academic standards.
- Display it on **promotional material**, letterhead, cards, websites and in your office; use it when teaching.
- **Correct** clients or colleagues who use the wrong title, with reasonable efforts (1.2.4).

3 Specialties and practice descriptions

- Imply a specialty **only if earned**, from a recognized credentialing body, meeting established standards, your regulated title given prominence (1.2.3); CRPO confers no specialty designations.
- The test: would a **panel of one's peers** see it that way?
- Describing a field is fine if it implies no specialty: "practice in **family and couples therapy**" is acceptable.

4 The doctor title (1.2.5)

- **RHPA s. 33 (1)**: no "doctor" in providing or offering health care in Ontario unless the regulations allow; not for RPs.
- Not with clients, **even with a Ph.D.**; it may be used **socially** or in a purely academic setting, with no clients present.
- You may **display a Ph.D.** in promotional material if it is your highest credential related to the profession.

5 Students and applicants

- Without a Certificate of Registration, **no protected title**; misuse may affect a later registration.
- CRPO suggests "**student therapist**" or "therapist in training" for practicums.
- They say they practise with clinical supervision and **name their education program**.

6 What the law protects

- Psychotherapy Act, 2007, **s. 8 (1)**: "psychotherapist", "registered psychotherapist", "registered mental health therapist", variations and equivalents are for members only.
- Section 8 (2): only members may **hold themself out** as qualified to practise under them; s. 10 fines up to **$25,000**, then $50,000.
- CRPO has **deferred** use of "Registered Mental Health Therapist", still a restricted title.
- Misconduct: inappropriate terms, titles or specialty designations, or not using the title the College designates (O. Reg. 317/12, **paras. 33, 34 and 36**).
- If a non-registrant presents as an RP, **intervene**: speak with them, or tell CRPO if it persists; never help anyone pose as a registrant (1.2.6).

Your regulated title right after your name and credential, everywhere; no "Dr." with clients; specialties only if earned.

Official sources: CRPO Standard 1.2 and Psychotherapy Act, 2007 and RHPA, 1991 and O. Reg. 317/12. Condensed from Professional Conduct. Independent study aid, not legal advice, not affiliated with CRPO or COMPASS.