

361st Federal Act of June 7, 1990 on the Exercise of Psychotherapy
 (Psychotherapy Act)

The National Council has decided:

PSYCHOTHERAPY ACT
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Article I

Federal Act on the Exercise of Psychotherapy (Psychotherapy Act):

Description of Profession

Section 1. (1) In keeping with the present federal act, the exercise of psychotherapy shall be the comprehensive, deliberate and planned treatment, on the basis of a general and a special training, of disturbances in behaviour and states of disease conditions, due to psycho-social or also psycho-somatic causes, by means of scientific, psycho-therapeutic methods, in an interaction between one or several treated persons and one or several psychotherapists, with the objective of mitigating or eliminating the established symptoms, to change disturbed patterns of behaviour and attitudes, and to promote a process of maturing, development and sanity in the treated person.

(2) The independent exercise of psychotherapy shall consist in the practical implementation, at the therapist's sole responsibility, of the activities described in paragraph I, irrespective of whether the activities are exercised on a self-employed basis or in the framework of an employment relationship,

Training to Become a Psychotherapist

Section 2. The independent exercise of psychotherapy shall require completion of a general and a special training. Both, the general part (preparatory instruction in psychotherapy) and the special part (special instruction in psychotherapy), shall be taught in theory and in practice.

Preparatory Instruction in Psychotherapy

Section 3. (1) The theoretical part shall cover a total period of a minimum of 765 hours and shall, in particular, include the following matters:

1. basic principles and border areas of psychotherapy, including supervision, in particular an introduction to history of the issue and to the development of schools of psychotherapy, into concepts of depth psychology, the system, as well as of the theories of learning and communicating, for a minimum period of 120 hours, into personality theories, for a minimum period of 30 hours, into general psychology and development psychology, for a minimum period of 60 hours, into rehabilitation and special and curative pedagogy, for a minimum period of 30 hours, into psychological diagnosis and evaluation, for a minimum period of 60 hours, and into the psycho-social forms of intervention, for a minimum period of 60 hours;

2. basic principle of somatology and medicine, in particular an introduction into medical terminology, for minimum period of 30 hours, into special clinical subjects of medicine with special consideration to the psychiatry, the psycho-pathology and the psycho-somatics of all age groups, particularly with a view to the psychotherapy of children and juveniles, and to gerontological psychotherapy, for a minimum period of 120 hours, into pharmacology with special consideration to psycho-pharmacology and the psychotropic effect of pharmaceuticals, for a minimum period of 45 hours, and into first-aid, for a minimum period of 15 hours;
3. basic methodological principles of research and science, for a minimum period of 75 hours;
4. questions of ethics, for a minimum period of 30 hours;
5. framework conditions for the exercise of psychotherapy, in particular an introduction into the institutional, health-law and psycho-social framework conditions, for a minimum period of 90 hours,

(2) The practical part shall cover a total period of a minimum of 550 hours and shall, in particular, include the following matters:

1. self-experience, as individual or in a group, for a minimum period of 50 hours;
2. practical exercises in the management of persons with disturbances in behaviour, or with diseased persons, in a facility of the health or social system in the psycho-social field, with professional instruction and supervision by the director of the facility concerned or his/her assistant, for a minimum period of 480 hours, including
3. attendance, in an accompanying form, of practical exercises in supervision, for a minimum period of 20 hours.

Section 4. (1) The preparatory instruction in psycho-therapy, except for the practical exercises according to item 2 of paragraph 2 of section 3, shall be given in the course of lectures at those private-law or public-law facilities, including university institutes and university hospitals, which have been recognized by way of decree as teaching facilities for preparatory instruction in psycho-therapy by the Federal Chancellor, in agreement with the Federal Minister of Science and Research, after hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council.

(2) The organizations operating the above facilities shall submit a detailed teaching syllabus, as well as the appropriate documentation on the number, the appointment procedure and the qualifications of the retrained teaching staff, when filing an application for recognition.

(3) Facilities shall receive recognition, if the substance and scope of their syllabus, as well as the knowledge and skills of their teaching staff ensure the objective of teaching all subject matters. Whenever the facilities, to which paragraph 1 refers, cannot offer instruction in all subject matters, they shall only receive recognition in a correspondingly limited scope.

(4) Every recognized facility for preparatory instruction in psychotherapy shall be entered into a public list which shall be kept by the Federal Chancellor's Office. The list may be inspected by all interested persons, who may have copies made against a refund of the copying costs, which the Federal Chancellor shall determine.

(5) The Federal Chancellor, in agreement with the Federal Minister of Science and Research, shall withdraw the recognition by way of decree at any time, after hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, if it becomes apparent that the circumstances have changed that were instrumental in obtaining the recognition, or that there was no original compliance with a requirement that is decisive for the recognition.

(6) The organizations operating the above facilities for preparatory instruction in psychotherapy shall submit a written report reviewing their teaching activities to the Federal Chancellor until July 10 of every year at the latest, which shall cover the period that ends on June 1 of every year.

Section 5. (1) The practical exercises according to item 2 of paragraph 2 of section 3 shall be completed in a facility of the health or social system in the psychosocial field that provides the population with psycho-social services, which comprises a minimum of two additional staff members with professional qualifications, apart from the director.

(2) After hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, the Federal Chancellor shall draw up a list of all facilities where the practical exercises according to item 2 of paragraph 2 of section 3 can be completed, which he shall update by June 1 of every year at the latest. The list of the above facilities shall be made available at the Federal Chancellor's Office. The list may be inspected by all interested persons, who may have copies made against a refund of the copying costs, which the Federal Chancellor shall determine.

Special Instruction in Psychotherapy

Section 6. (1) The theoretical part shall cover a total period of a minimum of 300 hours and shall, in particular, include the following matters, with a minimum of 50 hours being provided for one priority subject of the areas listed under the below items 1 to 3, depending on the speciality and its specific methods:

1. theory of the sound and psycho-pathological personality development, for a minimum period of 60 hours;
2. methods and techniques, for a minimum period of 100 hours;
3. personality and interaction theories, for a minimum period of 50 hours;
4. psychotherapeutic literature, for a minimum period of 40 hours.

(2) The practical part shall cover a total period of a minimum of 1,600 hours and shall, in particular, include the following matters, with a minimum of 100 hours being provided for one priority subject of the areas listed under the below items 1 to 4, depending on the speciality and its specific methods:

1. teaching therapy, teaching analysis, self-experience as individual or in a group, for a minimum period of 200 hours;
2. acquiring practical psychotherapeutic knowledge and experience in relations both with persons having behavioural disturbances and with diseased persons, under professional guidance by a psychotherapist, authorized to exercise independently the profession of psycho-therapist, by way of practical exercises in a facility of the health or social system in the psychotherapeutic and psycho-social field, for a minimum period of 550 hours, of which a minimum of 150 hours during one year shall be spent at a facility of the health system dedicated to the relevant profession, together with
3. attendance, in an accompanying form, of practical exercises with supervision, for a minimum period of 30 hours;
4. a psychotherapeutic activity with persons having a behavioural disturbance or with diseased persons, for a minimum period of 600 hours, of which a minimum of 120 hours shall be spent under an accompanying supervision.

Section 7. (1) The special instruction in psychotherapy, except for the practical exercises according to item 2 of paragraph 2 of section 6 shall be given in the course of lectures at those private-law or public-law facilities, including university institutes and university hospitals, which have been recognized by way of decree as teaching facilities for instruction in psychotherapy by the Federal Chancellor after hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council. Regarding the recognition of university institutes and university hospitals, the Federal chancellor shall reach agreement with the Federal Minister of science and Research.

(2) When applying for recognition, the organizations operating the above facilities shall submit their detailed syllabus, complete with the specific methods, as well as all relevant documents on the number, the appointment procedure and the qualifications of the necessary teaching staff.

(3) Every facility that has applied for recognition as teaching facility for instruction in psychotherapy shall be entitled to send a representative to the respective plenary meeting, in order to provide information, when the Psychotherapy Advisory Council meets to discuss the issue.

(4) Facilities shall receive recognition, if the substance and scope of their syllabus, as well as the knowledge and skills of their teaching staff ensure the objective of teaching according to section 6, except for the practical exercises according to item 2 of paragraph 2 of section 6. The training syllabus shall be adapted to the respective speciality and its specific methods, which shall be based on a scientific and psychotherapeutic theory of human action, together with an independent method that has been tested under practical circumstances for several years.

(5) Every recognized facility for instruction in psychotherapy shall be entered into a public list which shall be kept by the Federal Chancellor's Office. The list may be inspected by all interested persons, who may have copies made against a refund of the copying costs, which the Federal Chancellor shall determine.

(6) The Federal Chancellor, in agreement with the Federal Minister of Science and Research, shall withdraw the recognition by way of decree at any time, after hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, if it becomes apparent that the circumstances have changed that were instrumental in obtaining the recognition, or that there was no original compliance with a requirement that is decisive for the re-recognition. Regarding the withdrawal of the recognition from university institutes and university hospitals, the Federal Chancellor shall reach agreement with the Federal Minister of Science and Research.

(7) The facilities for instruction in psychotherapy shall submit a written report reviewing their teaching activities to the Federal Chancellor until July 10 of every year at the latest, which shall cover the period that ends on June 1 of every year.

Section 8. (1) The facilities for instruction in psychotherapy shall provide for the organization and practical implementation of the practical exercises according to item 2 of paragraph 2 of section 6, in cooperation with the organizations operating hospital or university hospital, recognized as training facilities according to sections 6 or 6a of the 1984 Physicians' Act, Federal Law Gazette No.373, or with another facility of the health or social system that provides the population with psychotherapeutic services and which comprises a minimum of two additional staff members with professional qualifications, apart from the its director.

(4) After hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, the Federal Chancellor shall draw up a list of all facilities where the practical exercises according to item 2 of paragraph 2 of section 6 can be completed, which he shall update by June 1 of every year at the latest. The list of the above facilities shall be made available at the Federal Chancellor's Office. The list may be inspected by all interested persons, who may have copies made against a refund of the copying costs, which the Federal Chancellor shall determine.

Certificates

Section 9. (1) Completion of the preparatory instruction in psychotherapy and of the special instruction in psychotherapy shall be evidenced by certificates, which shall contain an evaluation of the respective training objectives according to sections 3 and 6.

(2) Whenever the evaluation relates to theoretical part of the preparatory instruction in psychotherapy, its completion shall be evidenced by way of certificates on the successful taking of examinations on the subjects indicated in paragraph 1 of section 3.

Prerequisites for the Training to Become a Psychotherapist

Section 10. (1.) only those persons may complete the pre-paratory instruction in psychotherapy, who

1. have legal capacity, and either
2. have passed the school-leaving examination of a general upper-level secondary school or a vocational-training upper-level secondary school, including the teacher and instructor training colleges, or have passed the school-leaving examination prior to the entry into force of the respective stipulations of the School Organization Act, Federal Law Gazette No. 242/1462, at an upper-level secondary school or another secondary school, or the university-admission examination according to the stipulations of Admission to University Studies Act, Federal Law Gazette No. 292/1985, or
3. have graduated with a diploma abroad, which is equivalent to a school-leaving examination from a secondary school, and which has been recognized officially in Austria, or
4. have completed a special training for the sick nursing services or the medical-technical services according to the stipulations of the Federal Act Governing the Special Sick-Nursing Services, the Medical-Technical Services and the Auxiliary Medical Services, Federal Law Gazette No. 102/1961, or

5. have been admitted to attendance of the preparatory instruction in psychotherapy by way of a decree by the Federal Chancellor, on account of his/her aptitude, after obtaining an expert opinion by the Psychotherapy Advisory Council.

(2) Only those persons may complete the special instruction in psychotherapy, who

1. have legal capacity,
2. have reached the age of 24 years,
3. have submitted the written statement by a teaching facility for instruction in psychotherapy that a training position for the completion of the special instruction in psychotherapy, including the practical exercises according to item 2 of paragraph 2 of section 6, will be made available,
4. have completed successfully the preparatory instruction in psychotherapy, and either
5. meet the prerequisites according to item 4 of paragraph 1, or
6. have been admitted to attendance of the special instruction in psychotherapy by way of a decree by the Federal Chancellor, on account of his/her aptitude, after obtaining an expert opinion by the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, unless an admission according to item 5 of paragraph has provided previously, or have
7. completed a training course at an academy for social workers, at a previous teaching institute for advanced social occupations , at an academy of pedagogy, or a teaching institute with public teaching authorization for marriage and family counselling, or have completed the short study course in music therapy, or university training course in music therapy, or
8. have completed his/her studies of medicine, pedagogy, philosophy, psychology, publishing and communication science, or theology, or his/her studies for the teaching profession at upper-level secondary school, or
9. can prove completion of a full study course at a university abroad in keeping with item 8, as recognized officially in Austria.

Prerequisites for the Independent Exercise of Psychotherapy

Section 11. Those persons shall be authorized to exercise psychotherapy independently, who

1. have completed successfully the preparatory instruction in psychotherapy and the special instruction in psychotherapy,
2. have legal capacity,
3. have reached the age of 28 years,
4. have submitted evidence on their physical fitness and reliability, as are required to carry out their professional duties, and
5. have been admitted to the List of Psychotherapists after the Psychotherapy Advisory Council has been heard.

Credits

Section 12. When admitting a person to the List of Psychotherapists, the Federal Chancellor, in establishing the training periods for the preparatory instruction in psychotherapy according to section 3 or also of the special instruction in psychotherapy according to section 6, required to become a psychotherapist, applying the condition of equivalency, and hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, shall give credit for

1. training or further training periods, completed abroad,
2. training and further training periods, completed in keeping with the provisions of the 1984 Physicians' Act, Federal Law Gazette No. 373;
3. training and further training periods, completed in keeping with the Federal Act Governing the Special Sick-Nursing Services, the Medical-Technical Services and the Auxiliary Medical Services, Federal Law Gazette No. 102/1961;
4. periods completed to acquire professional competence in keeping with the provisions of the Psychologists Act, Federal Law Gazette No. 360/1990;
5. training periods completed in the framework of a study course, the short study course on music therapy or a university training course in music therapy, a training course at the academy for social workers, at a former training institute for advanced social occupations, an academy of pedagogy, a teacher-training or an instructor training institute, or a teaching institute with public authorization for the training of family and marriage counsellors.

Professional Title

Section 13. (1) When exercising the profession, persons, who are authorized to exercise psychotherapy independently, shall hold the professional title "psychotherapist" and may add as additional title a reference to the specific method followed by that training facility in psychotherapy where the training in psychotherapy was obtained. Whenever several training courses in psychotherapy were completed, the respective references may be added as additional titles.

(2) Holding the professional title "psychotherapist", together with the additional titles, for the exercise the profession shall be reserved to the persons mentioned in paragraph 1.

(3) Any title shall be prohibited that may create the pretence of having the authorization to exercise independently the profession of psychotherapy.

Professional Duties of Psychotherapists

Section 14. (1) Psychotherapists shall exercise their profession to the best of their knowledge and belief, giving due consideration to the evolution of scientific findings. The latter requirement shall, in particular, be complied with by the regular attendance of further-training events in Austria or abroad.

(2) Psychotherapists shall exercise their profession personally and directly, if necessary in cooperation with representatives of their own or other sciences. They may avail themselves of the support of auxiliary staff, provided that it works under their precise instructions and constant supervision.

(3) Psychotherapists may resort to psychotherapeutic activities only with the approval of the treated person or his/her legal representative,

(4) Psychotherapists shall be obliged to provide the treated person or his/her legal representative with all information on the treatment, in particular on its type, scope and costs.

(5) In the exercise of their profession, psychotherapists shall limit themselves to those working areas and treatment methods of psychiatry, where they have acquired adequately evidenced knowledge and experience.

(6) Psychotherapists, who wish to withdraw from the exercise of their profession, shall inform the treated person or his/her legal representative in due time so that he/she can obtain continued psychotherapeutic attendance.

Section 15. Psychotherapists, as well as their auxiliary staff, shall be obliged to keep confidential all secrets shared with them or becoming known to them in the exercise of their profession.

Section 16. (1) Psychotherapists shall refrain from any non-factual or incorrect information in connection with the exercise of their profession.

(2) Any announcement of the self-employed exercise of the profession as psychotherapist shall comprise only the name of the psychotherapist, authorized to exercise psychotherapy independently, his/her university degrees, the professional title, as well as the address, telephone number and office hours.

(3) Psychotherapists shall neither actively nor passively promise, give, take or guarantee remunerations, due to them or through them, in connection with the referral of persons for the exercise of the profession of psychotherapy. Any legal transaction in violation of the above prohibition shall be null and void. Performances from such legal transactions may be reclaimed.

(4) All other physical or legal entities shall also be prohibited from performing the acts banned by paragraphs 1 and 3.

Psychotherapists' List

Section 17. (1) In order to protect the public interest in an orderly registration, the Federal Chancellor shall keep a list of the persons authorized to exercise psychotherapy independently (List of Psychotherapists).

(2) The persons mentioned in paragraph 1 shall apply to the Federal Chancellor's Office for admission to the List and submit all required proof of their personal data and their training, before beginning to exercise psychotherapy independently.

(3) A medical certificate, issued by a physician, shall be submitted as evidence for compliance with the requirement of physical fitness, which a psychotherapist needs to carry out his/her professional duties. A certificate of criminal record shall be submitted as evidence for the person's reliability, which shall contain no convictions that would prevent the reliable exercise of the profession. The medical certificate and the certificate of criminal record may not date back more than three months when they are submitted in connection with an application for admission to the List.

(4) When applying for admission to the List, the psycho-therapeutic training facility, where the special instruction in psychotherapy was completed, with a view to the additional title, the prospective professional domicile (when wishing to exercise the profession on a self-employed basis) or the prospective place of employment (when wishing to exercise the profession in the framework of an employment contract), in particular, shall be indicated.

(5) After hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, the Federal Chancellor shall admit to the List persons, who are authorized to exercise psychotherapy independently. The Federal Chancellor shall refuse admission to the List, by way of decree, to those persons, who do not meet the above requirements.

Section 18. (1) Persons, who have been admitted to the Psychotherapists' List, shall inform the Federal Chancellor's office in writing within one month of any change of name, professional domicile or place of employment, any permanent or temporary retirement from the exercise of the profession, as well as of any discontinuation of the exercise of the profession, if it is likely to exceed three months.

(2) The Psychotherapists' List shall contain the name, the professional title, additional title, the professional domicile or place of employment, as well as the training facility in psychotherapy, and it shall be a public list. The list may be inspected by all interested persons, who may have copies made against a refund of the copying costs, which the Federal Chancellor shall determine.

Expiry of the Authorization to Exercise the Profession

Section 19. (1) The authorization to exercise psychotherapy independently shall cease to be valid:

1. if one of the prerequisites for the independent exercise of psychotherapy is no longer complied with,
2. if it becomes apparent that there was no original compliance with a requirement that is decisive for the admission to the Psychotherapists' List, or
3. if the independent exercise of psychotherapy has been discontinued for a period of more than 5 years.

(2) In the above cases, the Federal Chancellor shall, after hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, delete the persons concerned from the Psychotherapists' List, establishing by way of decree that there is no authorization to exercise psychotherapy independently and to hold the professional title "psychotherapist",

Psychotherapy Advisory Council

Section 20. (1) A Psychotherapy Advisory Council¹ shall be set up with the Federal Chancellor's office, which shall advise the Federal chancellor on all matters relating to the present federal act.

(2) The following shall be members of the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, who shall each have a seat and the voting right:

1. the Federal Chancellor, who shall act as chairman and who may delegate a civil servant of the Federal Chancellor's Office as substitute,
2. one representative of the Federal Ministry of Science and Research,
3. five representatives of university institutes and university hospitals with professional or related competence, which the Conference of University Presidents shall delegate with the proviso that three representatives shall be full extraordinary university professors and that two representatives shall be from among the other university teachers,
4. one representative each of the recognized training facilities in psychotherapy,
5. one representative of the Austrian Chamber of Physicians,
6. one representative of the Federal Economic Chamber,

7. one representative of the Central Association of Austrian Social-Insurance Corporations,
8. one representative of the Diet of Austrian Chambers of Labor,
9. one representative of the Austrian Trade Union Congress,
10. one representative of the Conference of Presidents of Austrian Chambers of Agriculture, and
11. one representative of the Psychologists' Advisory council, set up with the Federal Chancellor's Office.

(3) The Federal Chancellor shall be informed without delay of any delegation of representatives, or their substitutes, in case the former are prevented from exercising their functions.

(4) The members according to items 3 to 4 and items 6 to 10 of paragraph 2 shall be authorized to exercise psycho-therapy independently. The member according to item 5 of paragraph 2 shall be recruited from among the physicians specialized in psychiatry and neurology, or in neurology and psychiatry, the member according to item 11 of paragraph 2 from among the persons authorized to hold the professional title "psychologist".

(5) The Psychotherapy Advisory Council shall not be prevented from meeting, if anyone institution fails to delegate a representative.

Section 21. (1) In addition to advising the Federal Chancellor on matters of principle, the duties of the Psychotherapy ACIViSOry Council shall be, in particular, to give an expert opinion on matters relating to

1. the training facilities for the preparatory instruction in psychotherapy according to paragraphs 1 and 5 of section 4;
2. the training facilities for instruction in psychotherapy according to paragraphs 1 and 6 of section 7;
3. the preparation of the lists according to paragraph 2 of section 5 and paragraph 2 of section 8;
4. the arrangements for the examinations according to paragraph 2 of section 9;
5. the aptitude of a candidate for training according to item 5 of paragraph 1 of section 10;
6. the granting of credits according to section 12;
7. the admission to the Psychotherapists' List according to paragraph 5 of section 17;
 8. the expiry of the authorization to exercise the profession according to paragraph 2 of section 19;
9. the provision of psychosocial services to the Austrian population, in particular their financing;
10. scientific research;

11. consumer protection, in particular consumer complaints which are addressed to the Psychotherapy Advisory council;
12. the preparation of fee guidelines.

(2) The Psychotherapy Advisory Council shall carry on its work in plenary meetings, which its chairman shall convene in writing, and which shall be held twice every six months, at least.

(3) The Psychotherapy Advisory Council shall constitute a quorum, if at least one third of the representatives are present that have the right to vote. Decisions are cast by the necessary majority of votes. Those members shall have the right to have their opinion recorded expressly in writing, who constitute a minority of votes in a decision-taking process.

(4) The plenary meetings of the Psychotherapy Advisory Council shall not be public meetings. When so requested by the chairman, members shall provide proof of their authorization to attend the plenary meeting.

(5) The members of the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, as well as their substitutes, shall serve in their function on an honorary basis. They shall be entitled to a refund of any necessary cash expenses, including the rates for travelling and accommodation according to category 5 of the 1955 Travelling Expenses Regulations, Federal Law Gazette No. 133.

Section 22. (1) The Psychotherapy Advisory council shall decide on its rules of procedure, which shall ensure that it can carry out its duties entrusted. The rules of procedure may also provide for the setting up of special committees. The rules of procedure shall require the approval of the Federal Chancellor, in order to become effective.

(2) The Psychotherapy Advisory Council may ask representatives of the Federal Chancellor's Office, the federal ministries, as well as outside information sources to attend the plenary meetings and the meetings of special committees. Whenever the Psychotherapy Advisory Council convenes to discuss questions relating to the recognition of a training facility in psychotherapy, a representative of the facility which has applied for recognition shall be asked to attend, in particular, as external information source the respective plenary meeting of the Psychotherapy Advisory Council.

(3) The business of the Psychotherapy Advisory Council shall be conducted by an organizational unit of the Federal chancellor's Office, to be designated as "Office of the Psychotherapy Advisory Council". It shall be headed by a civil servant with legal expertise and shall provide a keeper of the minutes.

Penal Provisions

Section 23. Persons, who hold the professional title protected by the present federal act in violation of the provisions of section 13 or who act in violation of the provisions of paragraph 3 of section 13, of section 14, of section 16, of paragraph 2 of section 17, or of paragraph 1 of section 16, or who violate the obligation of secrecy according to section 15, shall commit an administrative trespass, which shall be punished by a money fine amounting to a maximum sum of ATS 50,000, unless the deed comprises the legal elements of a punishable offence that comes under the jurisdiction of the competent courts of justice.

Relation to Other Regulations

Section 24. (1) The 1973 Trade Regulations, Federal Law Gazette No. 50/1974, shall not apply to the activities of persons authorized to exercise psychotherapy independently.

(2) The exercise of psychotherapy shall not constitute an activity that is reserved exclusively to physicians, in keeping with the provisions of the 1984 Physicians' Act, Federal Law Gazette No. 373.

(3) The present federal act shall not affect the legal stipulations on the holding of the professional title "psychologist", nor on the exercise of the profession of psychologist in the framework of the health system, Psychologists' Act, Federal Law Gazette No. 360/1990.

(4) Whenever the present federal act relates to any provision of another federal act, the currently valid version of that other federal act shall apply.

Transitional Provisions

Section 25. (1) In addition to the members listed in paragraph 2 of section 20, the following associations shall be entitled as metiers of the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, to delegate one representative each, with seat and voting right, to the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, for a transitional period of three years; the Federal Chancellor shall be informed of the delegation of a representative, as well as of a substitute, in case the representative is prevented from exercising his/her functions:

1. "Study Group on Person-Focussed Dialogue";
2. "Study Group on Behaviour Modification";
3. "Society for Logotherapy and Existential Analysis";
4. "Teaching Institute for Family Therapy of the Arch-diocese of Vienna for Employed Persons";
5. "Austrian Study Circle for Group Therapy and Group Dynamics";

6. "Austrian Study Circles for Psycho-Analysis";
7. "Austrian Society for Analytical Psychology";
8. "Austrian Society for Autogenic Training and General Psycho-Therapy";
9. "Austrian Society for Scientific, Patient-Focussed Psychotherapy and Person-Oriented Dialogue";
10. "Austrian Society for the Promotion of Behavioural Research, Behavioural Modifications and Behaviour Therapy";
11. "Austrian Association for Individualized Psychology":
12. "Vienna Psycho-Analytical Association".

(2) The members of the Psychotherapy Advisory Council indicated in paragraph 1 shall be entitled to delegate one additional person each to the plenary meetings of the Psychotherapy Advisory Council as information source, depending on their respective specialities and its specific methods.

(3) The right to delegate representatives, having a seat and the right to vote, to the Psychotherapy Advisory Council shall end for the associations indicated in paragraph 1 at the end of the third year after the present federal act has entered into force.

(4) If one of the associations indicated in paragraph 1 is recognized as training facility for psychotherapy before the third year has ended after the present federal act has entered into force, its right of delegation in keeping with paragraph 1 shall cease, as of the date of its recognition. At the same time, it shall acquire the right of delegation according to paragraph 2 of section 20.

(5) The Federal Chancellor shall convene the Psychotherapy Advisory Council for a first meeting within three months, at the latest, after the present federal act has entered into force.

(6) The first constituting meeting of the Psychotherapy Advisory council shall not be prevented by a failure to send a representative according to paragraph 1.

Section 26. (1) After hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, the Federal Chancellor shall, until June 30, 1993 at the latest, admit to the Psychotherapists' List also those persons, who

1. on the basis of their professional activities have acquired a qualification in psychotherapy according to paragraph 1 of section 1, which shall be deemed equivalent in its substance to the training in psychotherapy in keeping with the present federal act,
2. have reached the age of 28 years,

3. have submitted evidence on their physical fitness and reliability, as are required to carry out their professional duties, and
4. have legal capacity.

(2) After hearing the Psychotherapy Advisory Council, the Federal Chancellor shall, until June 30, 1996 at the latest, admit to the Psychotherapists' List also those persons, who

1. began with a training in psychotherapy by January 1, 1992, at the latest, that is equivalent to the training in psychotherapy required by the present federal act,
2. complete the above training by December 31, 1997, at the latest,
3. have reached the age of 28 years,
4. have submitted evidence on their physical fitness and reliability, as required to carry out their professional duties, and
5. have legal capacity.

(3) Sections 17 and 18 shall apply to the admission to the Psychotherapists' List. The Federal Chancellor shall refuse admission to the List, by way of decree, to those persons, who do not meet the requirements mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2.

(4) The persons mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be authorized to exercise psychotherapy independently, once they have been admitted to the Psychotherapists' List. Section 13 shall apply to the holding of the professional title "psychotherapist", section 19 shall apply to the expiry of the authorization to exercise the profession.

Article II

Provisions on Implementation and Entry into Force

(1) The Federal Chancellor shall be responsible for the implementation of the present federal act. Regarding paragraphs 1 and 5 of section 4 and paragraphs 1 and 6 of section 7, he shall reach agreement with the Federal Minister of Science and Research.

(2) The present federal act shall enter into force on January 1, 1991.

Waldheim

Vranitzky