

## French new law about psychotherapy Decree of application

After 11 years of permanent fight between professional bodies and the Government, the Decree of application of the French law has just been published on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, and **the new law is supposed to be applied in July 2010.**

The decree is too long for a free translation, but I **summarize** it:

Only the **title** of “psychotherapist” is protected, *without any definition*. The **practice remains free**.

To register, the applicant must be **medical doctor, psychologist (master degree) or psychoanalyst**. All new students must have these titles to **begin** any specialised training.

Except the psychiatrists, they must undergo some **complementary training**: 100 to 400 hours of **psychopathology**, and 2 to **5 months of placement (fieldwork)**.

The former psychotherapists having been officially **practicing since more than 5 years** (« grandparents ») can ask to be registered, after a **control by a regional committee** of 6 professionals : 2 psychiatrists, 2 psychologists and 2 psychoanalysts ; 2 of them must be professors in University. The applicants can be obliged to follow a complementary training in psychopathology.

Some private institutes can ask to be accredited (by the same committees) for the training in **psychopathology**. They must have a scientific committee and a *research* team.

### **Some commentaries:**

So, new trained psychotherapists at the level of ECP are not recognised, but psychologists without any training in psychotherapy can call themselves « psychotherapists ».

Psychotherapy is confused with psychopathology.

The regional committees for registration don't include full time psychotherapists. In practice, psychotherapists will have to find a new name!

The profession has not been consulted; the observations of our specialised advocates have not been taken into consideration... and our practitioners are very disappointed!

Psychotherapy is **not reimbursed** by social security system, except, in hospitals and in some cases – if it is done by **medical** doctors (very partly reimbursed).

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