



The South African Association for  
Social Workers in Private Practice

## FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK

**“Forensic Social Work”** is a specialised field in social work that focuses on the interface between the legal system and the secondary client (the individual, family, organisation or institution being assessed) and is characterised by the primary function of providing expert testimonies in courts of LAW;

**“Forensic Social Work assessment”** means an investigation of a specific matter by application of scientific assessment methods or processes designed to answer a question or a set of questions to establish the facts of the matter within the court of law.

**“Forensic Social Work investigation”** means conducting a process of forensic assessment using forensic social work knowledge, techniques and tools in order to compile a forensic social work report with accurate information to establish facts or evidence that can be used in courts of law.

**“Forensic Social Work report”** means a written report based on a body of scientific knowledge on forensic social work, the facts, assessment findings and recommendations prepared by a forensic social worker.

**“Forensic Social Worker”** means a registered social worker with advanced scientific and specialised knowledge, skills, training and education and experience in forensic social work, who provides the court with written or oral impartial and factual expert testimony.

### **Activities undertaken by Forensic Social workers include:**

- Conducting forensic social work investigations of all cases that require forensic assessment using scientifically validated protocols and techniques in relation to forensic social work;
- Applying relevant legislation;
- Applying forensic social work techniques to obtain and interpret data used in the compilation of the forensic social work report;
- Compiling and submitting evidence based forensic social work reports to primary clients;
- Providing expert testimony on relevant matters in a court of law;
- Engaging in research and developing the field of forensic social work.

### **Forensic Social Work scope of practice excludes:**

- Generic social work assessments;
- Clinical social work;
- Therapeutic interventions;
- Probation services in terms of the Probation Services Act 116 of 1991.