

## PROFESSIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE SCALE (PROQOL)

### COMPASSION SATISFACTION AND COMPASSION FATIGUE

#### (PROQOL) VERSION 5 (2009)

When you [help] people you have direct contact with their lives. As you may have found, your compassion for those you [help] can affect you in positive and negative ways. Below are some questions about your experiences, both positive and negative, as a [helper]. Consider each of the following questions about you and your current work situation. Select the number that honestly reflects how frequently you experienced these things in the last 30 days.

**1=Never**

**2=Rarely**

**3=Sometimes**

**4=Often**

**5=Very Often**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I am happy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I am preoccupied with more than one person I [help].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I get satisfaction from being able to [help] people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I feel connected to others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I jump or am startled by unexpected sounds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I feel invigorated after working with those I [help].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I find it difficult to separate my personal life from my life as a [helper].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. I am not as productive at work because I am losing sleep over traumatic experiences of a person I [help].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. I think that I might have been affected by the traumatic stress of those I [help].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. I feel trapped by my job as a [helper].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Because of my [helping], I have felt "on edge" about various things.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. I like my work as a [helper].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. I feel depressed because of the traumatic experiences of the people I [help].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. I feel as though I am experiencing the trauma of someone I have [helped].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. I have beliefs that sustain me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. I am pleased with how I am able to keep up with [helping] techniques and protocols.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. I am the person I always wanted to be.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. My work makes me feel satisfied.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. I feel worn out because of my work as a [helper].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. I have happy thoughts and feelings about those I [help] and how I could help them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. I feel overwhelmed because my case [work] load seems endless.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. I believe I can make a difference through my work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. I avoid certain activities or situations because they remind me of frightening experiences of the people I [help].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. I am proud of what I can do to [help].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. As a result of my [helping], I have intrusive, frightening thoughts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. I feel "bogged down" by the system.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. I have thoughts that I am a "success" as a [helper].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. I can't recall important parts of my work with trauma victims.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. I am a very caring person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. I am happy that I chose to do this work.

## YOUR SCORES ON THE PROQOL: PROFESSIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE SCREENING

Based on your responses, place your personal scores below. If you have any concerns, you should discuss them with a physical or mental health care professional.

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### Compassion Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_

Compassion satisfaction is about the pleasure you derive from being able to do your work well. For example, you may feel like it is a pleasure to help others through your work. You may feel positively about your colleagues or your ability to contribute to the work setting or even the greater good of society. Higher scores on this scale represent a greater satisfaction related to your ability to be an effective caregiver in your job.

The average score is 50 (SD 10; alpha scale reliability .88). About 25% of people score higher than 57 and about 25% of people score below 43. If you are in the higher range, you probably derive a good deal of professional satisfaction from your position. If your scores are below 40, you may either find problems with your job, or there may be some other reason—for example, you might derive your satisfaction from activities other than your job.

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### Burnout \_\_\_\_\_

Most people have an intuitive idea of what burnout is. From the research perspective, burnout is one of the elements of Compassion Fatigue (CF). It is associated with feelings of hopelessness and difficulties in dealing with work or in doing your job effectively. These negative feelings usually have a gradual onset. They can reflect the feeling that your efforts make no difference, or they can be associated with a very high workload or a non-supportive work environment. Higher scores on this scale mean that you are at higher risk for burnout.

The average score on the burnout scale is 50 (SD 10; alpha scale reliability .75). About 25% of people score above 57 and about 25% of people score below 43. If your score is below 43, this probably reflects positive feelings about your ability to be effective in your work. If you score above 57 you may wish to think about what at work makes you feel like you are not effective in your position. Your score may reflect your mood; perhaps you were having a “bad day” or are in need of some time off. If the high score persists or if it is reflective of other worries, it may be a cause for concern.

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### Secondary Traumatic Stress \_\_\_\_\_

The second component of Compassion Fatigue (CF) is secondary traumatic stress (STS). It is about your work related, secondary exposure to extremely or traumatically stressful events. Developing problems due to exposure to other's trauma is somewhat rare but does happen to many people who care for those who have experienced extremely or traumatically stressful events. For example, you may repeatedly hear stories about the traumatic things that happen to other people, commonly called Vicarious Traumatization. If your work puts you directly in the path of danger, for example, field work in a war or area of civil violence, this is not secondary exposure; your exposure is primary. However, if you are exposed to others' traumatic events as a result of your work, for example, as a therapist or an emergency worker, this is secondary exposure. The symptoms of STS are usually rapid in onset and associated with a particular event. They may include being afraid, having difficulty sleeping, having images of the upsetting event pop into your mind, or avoiding things that remind you of the event.

The average score on this scale is 50 (SD 10; alpha scale reliability .81). About 25% of people score below 43 and about 25% of people score above 57. If your score is above 57, you may want to take some time to think about what at work may be frightening to you or if there is some other reason for the elevated score. While higher scores do not mean that you do have a problem, they are an indication that you may want to examine how you feel about your work and your work environment. You may wish to discuss this with your supervisor, a colleague, or a health care professional.

## WHAT IS MY SCORE AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In this section, you will score your test so you understand the interpretation for you. To find your score on **each section**, total the questions listed on the left and then find your score in the table on the right of the section.

### Compassion Satisfaction Scale

Copy your rating on each of these questions on to this table and add them up. When you have added then up you can find your score on the table to the right.

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
12. \_\_\_\_\_  
16. \_\_\_\_\_  
18. \_\_\_\_\_  
20. \_\_\_\_\_  
22. \_\_\_\_\_  
24. \_\_\_\_\_  
27. \_\_\_\_\_  
30. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

The sum of my Compassion Satisfaction questions is	So My Score Equals	And my Compassion Satisfaction level is
22 or less	43 or less	Low
Between 23 and 41	Around 50	Average
42 or more	57 or more	High

### Burnout Scale

On the burnout scale you will need to take an extra step. Starred items are "reverse scored." If you scored the item 1, write a 5 beside it. The reason we ask you to reverse the scores is because scientifically the measure works better when these questions are asked in a positive way though they can tell us more about their negative form. For example, question 1. "I am happy" tells us more about

- \*1. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
\*4. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
\*15. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
\*17. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
19. \_\_\_\_\_  
21. \_\_\_\_\_  
26. \_\_\_\_\_  
\*29. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

The sum of my Burnout Questions is	So my score equals	And my Burnout level is
22 or less	43 or less	Low
Between 23 and 41	Around 50	Average
42 or more	57 or more	High

You Wrote	Change to
	5
2	4
3	3
4	2
5	1

the effects of helping when you are *not* happy so you reverse the score

### Secondary Traumatic Stress Scale

Just like you did on Compassion Satisfaction, copy your rating on each of these questions on to this table and add them up. When you have added then up you can find your score on the table to the right.

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
11. \_\_\_\_\_  
13. \_\_\_\_\_  
14. \_\_\_\_\_  
23. \_\_\_\_\_  
25. \_\_\_\_\_  
28. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

The sum of my Secondary Trauma questions is	So My Score Equals	And my Secondary Traumatic Stress level is
22 or less	43 or less	Low
Between 23 and 41	Around 50	Average
42 or more	57 or more	High

# Mindful Attention Awareness Scale (MAAS)

## Rate your level of mindfulness

This is a psychological test that was developed by Ruth Baer (University of Kentucky) and is in the public domain. It has been used in many recent mindfulness research studies. Take the test to see how mindful you are.

**Instructions:** Below is a collection of statements about your everyday experience. Using the 1-6 scale below, please indicate how frequently or infrequently you currently have each experience. Please answer according to what *really reflects* your experience rather than what you think your experience should be. Please treat each item separately from every other item.

**1** = almost always; **2** = very frequently; **3** = somewhat frequently; **4** = somewhat infrequently; **5** = very infrequently; **6** = almost never.

1. I could be experiencing some emotion and not be conscious of it until some time later.
2. I break or spill things because of carelessness, not paying attention, or thinking of something else.
3. I find it difficult to stay focused on what's happening in the present.
4. I tend to walk quickly to get where I'm going without paying attention to what I experience along the way.
5. I tend not to notice feelings of physical tension or discomfort until they really grab my attention.
6. I forget a person's name almost as soon as I've been told it for the first time.

7. It seems I am "running on automatic" without much awareness of what I'm doing.
8. I rush through activities without being really attentive to them.
9. I get so focused on the goal I want to achieve that I lose touch with what I am doing right now to get there.
10. I do jobs or tasks automatically, without being aware of what I'm doing.
11. I find myself listening to someone with one ear, doing something else at the same time.
12. I drive places on "automatic pilot" and then wonder why I went there.
13. I find myself preoccupied with the future or the past.
14. I find myself doing things without paying attention.
15. I snack without being aware that I'm eating.

**Scoring:** Note your answers and add them up, then divide your total by 15. This will give you your average score for the fifteen statements. **The higher the score, the higher your mindfulness.** Typically the average score is around 3.86. The highest score is 6 and the lowest score is 1.

## The Organizational Self-Care Checklist

### Training and Education

- ☐ The organization provides education to all employees about stress and its impact on health and well-being.
  - ☐ The organization provides all employees with education on the signs of burnout compassion fatigue and/or vicarious traumatization.
  - ☐ The organization provides all employees with stress management trainings.
  - ☐ The organization provides all employees with training related to their job tasks.
  - ☐ Staff are given opportunities to attend refresher trainings and trainings on new topics related to their role.
  - ☐ Staff coverage is in place to support training.
  - ☐ The organization provides education on the steps necessary to advance in whatever role you are in.
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Part of supervision is used for ongoing assessment of workload and time needed to complete tasks.
  - ☐ Staff members are encouraged to understand their own stress reactions and take appropriate steps to develop their own self-care plans.
  - ☐ Staff members are welcome to discuss concerns about the organization or their job with administrators without negative consequences (e.g., being treated differently, feeling like their job is in jeopardy or having it impact their role on the team).
  - ☐ Staff members are encouraged to take breaks, including lunch and vacation time.
  - ☐ The organization supports peer-to-peer activities such as support groups and mentoring.
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Support and Supervision

- ☐ The organization offers an employee assistance program (EAP).
- ☐ Employee job descriptions and responsibilities are clearly defined.
- ☐ All staff members have regular supervision.
- ☐ Part of supervision is used to address job stress and self-care strategies.

### Employee Control and Input

- ☐ The organization provides opportunities for staff to provide input into practices and policies.
- ☐ The organization reviews its policies on a regular basis to identify whether they are helpful or harmful to the health and well-being of its employees.

## Employee Control and Input *continued*

- \_\_\_ The organization provides opportunities for staff members to identify their professional goals.
- \_\_\_ Staff members have formal channels for addressing problems/grievances.
- \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Communication

- \_\_\_ Staff members have regularly scheduled team meetings.
- \_\_\_ Topics related to self-care and stress management are addressed in team meetings.
- \_\_\_ Regular discussions of how people and departments are communicating and relaying information are addressed in team meetings.
- \_\_\_ The organization provides opportunities for staff in different roles to share their “day in the life”.
- \_\_\_ The organization has a way of evaluating staff satisfaction on a regular basis.
- \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Work Environment

- \_\_\_ The work environment is well-lit.
- \_\_\_ The work environment is physically well maintained (e.g., clean, secure, etc.).
- \_\_\_ Information about self-care is posted in places that are visible.
- \_\_\_ Employee rights are posted in places that are visible.
- \_\_\_ The organization provides opportunities for community building among employees.
- \_\_\_ The organization has a no-tolerance policy concerning sexual harassment.
- \_\_\_ The organization has a no-tolerance policy concerning bullying.
- \_\_\_ Workplace issues, including grievance issues and interpersonal difficulties, are managed by those in the appropriate role and remain confidential.
- \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Agencies that deal with people in traumatic situations  
can also become traumatized.***

***It is the ethical responsibility of the agency/organization/division  
to create an environment that supports and encourages the  
critical strength  
of RESILIENCE in all staff.***

## Self-Care Assessment Worksheet

This assessment tool provides an overview of effective strategies to maintain self-care. After completing the full assessment, you can move on to developing a full self-care plan.

Using the scale below, rate the following areas in terms of frequency:

5 = Frequently 4 = Occasionally 3 = Rarely 2 = Never 1 = It never occurred to me

### Physical Self-Care

- \_\_\_ Eat regularly (e.g. breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- \_\_\_ Eat healthy
- \_\_\_ Exercise
- \_\_\_ Get regular medical care for prevention
- \_\_\_ Get medical care when needed
- \_\_\_ Take time off when needed
- \_\_\_ Get massages
- \_\_\_ Dance, swim, walk, run, play sports, sing, or do some other physical activity that is fun
- \_\_\_ Take time to be sexual—with yourself, with a partner
- \_\_\_ Get enough sleep
- \_\_\_ Wear clothes you like
- \_\_\_ Take day trips or mini-vacations
- \_\_\_ Other:

### Psychological Self-Care

- \_\_\_ Make time for self-reflection
- \_\_\_ Have your own personal psychotherapy
- \_\_\_ Write in a journal
- \_\_\_ Read literature that is unrelated to school
- \_\_\_ Let others know different aspects of you
- \_\_\_ Notice your inner experience—listen to your thoughts, judgments, beliefs, attitudes, and feelings
- \_\_\_ Engage your intelligence in a new area, e.g. go to an art museum, history exhibit, sports event, theater performance
- \_\_\_ Practice receiving from others
- \_\_\_ Be curious
- \_\_\_ Say “no” to extra responsibilities sometimes
- \_\_\_ Other:

### Emotional Self-Care

- \_\_\_ Spend time with others whose company you enjoy
- \_\_\_ Stay in contact with important people in your life
- \_\_\_ Give yourself affirmations, praise yourself
- \_\_\_ Love yourself
- \_\_\_ Re-read favorite books, re-view favorite movies
- \_\_\_ Identify comforting activities, objects, people, relationships, places and seek them out
- \_\_\_ Allow yourself to cry
- \_\_\_ Find things that make you laugh
- \_\_\_ Express your outrage in social action, letters and donations, marches, protests
- \_\_\_ Play with children
- \_\_\_ Other:

### Spiritual Self-Care

- \_\_\_ Make time for reflection
- \_\_\_ Spend time with nature
- \_\_\_ Find a spiritual connection or community
- \_\_\_ Be open to inspiration
- \_\_\_ Cherish your optimism and hope
- \_\_\_ Be aware of nonmaterial aspects of life
- \_\_\_ Try at times not to be in charge or the expert
- \_\_\_ Be open to not knowing
- \_\_\_ Identify what is meaningful to you and notice its place in your life
- \_\_\_ Have experiences of awe
- \_\_\_ Read inspirational literature (talks, music, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Other:



## Develop a Self-Care Plan

1. List the self-care habits you are using now to manage stress and stay healthy:

(I get at least 8 hours of sleep at night)

- 
- 
- 

2. List the self-care habits you would like to use but are not currently practicing:

(Practicing yoga regularly)

- 
- 
- 

3. Identify the obstacles keeping you from practicing these habits:

(I don't practice yoga regularly because I don't have the time to)

- 
- 
- 

4. What solutions can you come up with to address the obstacles you listed:

(I could free up time for myself by watching less TV or waking up earlier)

- 
- 
- 

5. Reread the self-care habits you wrote down for item 2. Select one of the habits you would like to begin practicing and complete the sentences below.

Today, I commit to...

I want to do this because...

I will accomplish this by...