

AN ACT

Codification  
District of  
Columbia  
Official Code

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985 to define the practice of addiction counseling, to amend the definition of the practice of professional counseling, to provide for the regulation of addiction counseling by the Board of Professional Counseling, to establish licensure requirements for graduate professional counselors, to provide for certification and licensure requirements for addiction counselors, and to provide for waiver of certain requirements for addiction counselors I and II.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Practice of Professional Counseling and Addiction Counseling Amendment Act of 2009”.

Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) The table of contents is amended as follows:

(1) Add the following after “Sec. 841. Qualifications for licensure.”:

“TITLE VIII-C

“CATEGORIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF ADDICTION COUNSELORS.

“Sec. 851. Certified addiction counselor I.

“Sec. 852. Certified addiction counselor II.

“Sec. 853. Advanced practice addiction counselor.

“Sec. 854. Waiver of requirements.”.

(2) Strike the phrase “Sec. 904. Addiction Counselor.” and insert the phrase

“Sec. 904. Addiction Counselor. [Repealed]” in its place.

(b) Section 102 (D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.02) is amended as follows:

(1) A new paragraph (1A) is added to read as follows:

“(1A) “Practice of addiction counseling” means providing services, with or without compensation, based on theory and methods of counseling, psychotherapy, and addictionology to persons who are experiencing cognitive, affective, or behavioral psycho-social

Amend  
§ 3-1201.02

dysfunction as a direct or indirect result of addiction, chemical dependency, abuse of chemical substances, or related disorders. The practice of addiction counseling includes:

“(A) Addiction prevention;

“(B) Crisis intervention;

“(C) Diagnosis;

“(D) Referral;

“(E) Direct treatment;

“(F) Follow-up, which is rendered to individuals, families, groups, organizations, schools, and communities adversely affected by addictions or related disorders; and

“(G) The education and training of persons in the field of addiction counseling.”.

(2) Paragraph (15A) is amended to read as follows:

“(15A) “Practice of professional counseling” means engaging in counseling or psychotherapy activities, including cognitive behavioral therapy or other modality, with or without compensation, to facilitate human development and to identify and remediate mental, emotional, or behavioral conditions and associated difficulties that interfere with mental health and wellness. The practice of professional counseling includes:

“(A) The processes of conducting interviews, tests, and other forms of assessment for the purpose of diagnosing individuals, families, and groups, as outlined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Disorders or other appropriate classification schemes, and determining treatment goals and objectives; and

“(B) Assisting individuals, families, and groups through a professional relationship to achieve long-term effective mental, emotional, physical, spiritual, social, educational, or career development and adjustment.”.

(c) Section 213 (D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.13) is amended as follows:

Amend  
§ 3-1202.13

(1) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) The Board shall regulate the practices of professional counseling and addiction counseling.”.

(2) Subsection (d) is amended by striking the phrase “and 1 shall be a consumer member” and inserting the phrase “one shall be a consumer member, and one shall have at least 5 years of experience in the field of addiction counseling” in its place.

(d) Section 710 (D.C. Official Code § 3-1207.10) is amended as follows:

Amend  
§ 3-1207.10

(1) Designate the existing language as subsection (a).

(2) New subsections (b) and (c) are added to read as follows:

“(b) The Board of Professional Counseling shall license as a graduate professional counselor a person who, in addition to meeting the requirements of Title V, has satisfactorily completed the examination process and has completed 48 hours of graduate education leading to a Master’s degree in counseling or a related subject from an accredited college or university.

“(c) The Board of Professional Counseling shall license, by endorsement, a professional counselor who, in addition to meeting the requirements of Title V, is currently licensed in another state and meets the American Association of State Counseling Boards Tier II requirements, which consist of:

“(1) Completion of at least 60 hours of postgraduate education leading to a Master’s degree in counseling or a related field obtained from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education;

“(2) Supervision by another person, which shall consist of at least 2 years of post-Master’s counseling experience with a minimum of 4,000 hours;

“(3) Having 2,500 hours of direct client contact within the 4,000 hours;

“(4) A minimum of 100 hours of clinical supervision, post-Master’s, of which 50 hours may be in group supervision; and

“(5) Five years of post-licensure experience in clinical counseling at the independent level.”

(e) A new Title VIII-C is added to read as follows:

**“TITLE VIII-C**

**“CATEGORIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF ADDICTION COUNSELORS.**

**“Sec. 851. Certified addiction counselor I.**

“(a) The Board of Professional Counseling shall certify as an addiction counselor I a person who, in addition to meeting the requirements of Title V:

“(1)(A) Has met the educational requirements of graduating with at least an associate’s degree in health or human services from an accredited institution that incorporates the academic course work and minimum hours of supervised training required by the regulations adopted by the Board and whose program is accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; or

“(B) Has at least 2 years of documented, supervised experience in the field of addiction counseling; and

“(2) Passed a national examination approved by the Board.

“(b) A certified addiction counselor I shall practice addiction counseling under the supervision of an authorized health-care professional.

**“Sec. 852. Certified addiction counselor II.**

“(a) The Board of Professional Counseling shall certify as an addiction counselor II a person who, in addition to meeting the requirements of Title V:

“(1)(A) Has met the educational requirements of graduating with at least a bachelor’s degree in health or human services from an accredited institution that incorporates the academic course work and minimum hours of supervised training required by the regulations adopted by the Board and whose program is accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; or

“(B) Has at least 5 years of documented experience in the field of addiction counseling; and

“(2) Passed a national examination approved by the Board.

“(b) A certified addiction counselor II shall practice addiction counseling under the supervision of an authorized health-care professional.

“Sec. 853. Advanced practice addiction counselor.

“(a) The Board of Professional Counseling shall license as an advanced practice addiction counselor a person who, in addition to meeting the requirements of Title V:

“(1) Has met the educational requirements of graduating with at least a master’s or doctorate degree in health or human services from an accredited institution that incorporates the academic course work and minimum hours of supervised training adopted by the Board and whose program is accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; and

“(2) Passed a national examination approved by the Board.

“Sec. 854. Waiver of requirements.

“(a) The Board of Professional Counseling shall waive the educational and examination requirements for any applicant for certification who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that he or she has been performing the function of an addiction counselor I, as defined in section 851, on a full-time or substantially full-time basis continually for at least 24 months immediately preceding the effective date of the Practice of Professional Counseling and Addiction Counseling Amendment Act of 2009, passed on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on April 7, 2009 (Enrolled version of Bill 18-34) (“Counseling Act”), and is qualified to do so on the basis of pertinent education, training, experience, and demonstrated current competence; provided, that the application is made within 24 months of the effective date of the Counseling Act.

“(b) The Board of Professional Counseling shall waive the educational and examination requirements for any applicant for certification who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board, that he or she has been performing the function of an addiction counselor II, as defined in section 852, on a full-time or substantially full-time basis continually for at least 60 months immediately preceding the effective date of the Counseling Act and is qualified to do so on the basis of pertinent education, training, experience, and demonstrated current competence; provided, that the application is made within 24 months of the effective date of the Counseling Act.”.

(f) Section 904 (D.C. Official Code § 3-1209.04) is repealed.

Repeal  
§ 3-1209.04

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

Sec. 4. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

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Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia

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Mayor  
District of Columbia