



26 | present subsection (10), and present subsections (15), (16), and  
27 | (17) of that section are amended, to read:

28 | 491.003 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

29 | (11)~~(8)~~ The "practice of clinical social work" is defined  
30 | as the use of scientific and applied knowledge, theories, and  
31 | methods for the purpose of describing, preventing, evaluating,  
32 | and treating individual, couple, marital, family, or group  
33 | behavior, based on the person-in-situation perspective of  
34 | psychosocial development, normal and abnormal behavior,  
35 | psychopathology, unconscious motivation, interpersonal  
36 | relationships, environmental stress, differential assessment,  
37 | differential planning, and data gathering. The purpose of such  
38 | services is the prevention and treatment of undesired behavior  
39 | and enhancement of mental health. The practice of clinical  
40 | social work includes methods of a psychological nature used to  
41 | evaluate, assess, diagnose, treat, and prevent emotional and  
42 | mental disorders and dysfunctions (whether cognitive, affective,  
43 | or behavioral), sexual dysfunction, behavioral disorders,  
44 | alcoholism, and substance abuse. The practice of clinical social  
45 | work includes, but is not limited to, psychotherapy,  
46 | hypnotherapy, and sex therapy. The practice of clinical social  
47 | work also includes counseling, behavior modification,  
48 | consultation, client-centered advocacy, crisis intervention, and  
49 | the provision of needed information and education to clients,  
50 | when using methods of a psychological nature to evaluate,

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51 assess, diagnose, treat, and prevent emotional and mental  
52 disorders and dysfunctions (whether cognitive, affective, or  
53 behavioral), sexual dysfunction, behavioral disorders,  
54 alcoholism, or substance abuse. The practice of clinical social  
55 work may also include clinical research into more effective  
56 psychotherapeutic modalities for the treatment and prevention of  
57 such conditions.

58 (c) The terms "diagnose" and "treat," as used in this  
59 chapter, when considered in isolation or in conjunction with the  
60 rules of the board, may not be construed to permit the  
61 performance of any act which clinical social workers are not  
62 educated and trained to perform, including, but not limited to,  
63 admitting persons to hospitals for treatment of the foregoing  
64 conditions, treating persons in hospitals without medical  
65 supervision, prescribing medicinal drugs as defined in chapter  
66 465, authorizing clinical laboratory procedures, or radiological  
67 procedures, or use of electroconvulsive therapy. In addition,  
68 this definition may not be construed to permit any person  
69 licensed, provisionally licensed, ~~registered,~~ or certified  
70 pursuant to this chapter to describe or label any test, report,  
71 or procedure as "psychological," except to relate specifically  
72 to the definition of practice authorized in this subsection.

73 (12) ~~(9)~~ The term "practice of marriage and family therapy"  
74 means the use of scientific and applied marriage and family  
75 theories, methods, and procedures for the purpose of describing,

76 | evaluating, and modifying marital, family, and individual  
77 | behavior, within the context of marital and family systems,  
78 | including the context of marital formation and dissolution, and  
79 | is based on marriage and family systems theory, marriage and  
80 | family development, human development, normal and abnormal  
81 | behavior, psychopathology, human sexuality, and  
82 | psychotherapeutic and marriage and family therapy theories and  
83 | techniques. The practice of marriage and family therapy includes  
84 | methods of a psychological nature used to evaluate, assess,  
85 | diagnose, treat, and prevent emotional and mental disorders or  
86 | dysfunctions (whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral),  
87 | sexual dysfunction, behavioral disorders, alcoholism, and  
88 | substance abuse. The practice of marriage and family therapy  
89 | includes, but is not limited to, marriage and family therapy,  
90 | psychotherapy, including behavioral family therapy,  
91 | hypnotherapy, and sex therapy. The practice of marriage and  
92 | family therapy also includes counseling, behavior modification,  
93 | consultation, client-centered advocacy, crisis intervention, and  
94 | the provision of needed information and education to clients,  
95 | when using methods of a psychological nature to evaluate,  
96 | assess, diagnose, treat, and prevent emotional and mental  
97 | disorders and dysfunctions (whether cognitive, affective, or  
98 | behavioral), sexual dysfunction, behavioral disorders,  
99 | alcoholism, or substance abuse. The practice of marriage and  
100 | family therapy may also include clinical research into more

101 effective psychotherapeutic modalities for the treatment and  
 102 prevention of such conditions.

103 (c) The terms "diagnose" and "treat," as used in this  
 104 chapter, when considered in isolation or in conjunction with the  
 105 rules of the board, may not be construed to permit the  
 106 performance of any act that marriage and family therapists are  
 107 not educated and trained to perform, including, but not limited  
 108 to, admitting persons to hospitals for treatment of the  
 109 foregoing conditions, treating persons in hospitals without  
 110 medical supervision, prescribing medicinal drugs as defined in  
 111 chapter 465, authorizing clinical laboratory procedures or  
 112 radiological procedures or the use of electroconvulsive therapy.  
 113 In addition, this definition may not be construed to permit any  
 114 person licensed, provisionally licensed, ~~registered,~~ or  
 115 certified pursuant to this chapter to describe or label any  
 116 test, report, or procedure as "psychological," except to relate  
 117 specifically to the definition of practice authorized in this  
 118 subsection.

119 (13)~~(10)~~ The term "practice of mental health counseling"  
 120 means the use of scientific and applied behavioral science  
 121 theories, methods, and techniques for the purpose of describing,  
 122 preventing, and treating undesired behavior and enhancing mental  
 123 health and human development and is based on the person-in-  
 124 situation perspectives derived from research and theory in  
 125 personality, family, group, and organizational dynamics and

126 development, career planning, cultural diversity, human growth  
127 and development, human sexuality, normal and abnormal behavior,  
128 psychopathology, psychotherapy, and rehabilitation. The practice  
129 of mental health counseling includes methods of a psychological  
130 nature used to evaluate, assess, diagnose, and treat emotional  
131 and mental dysfunctions or disorders, whether cognitive,  
132 affective, or behavioral, interpersonal relationships, sexual  
133 dysfunction, alcoholism, and substance abuse. The practice of  
134 mental health counseling includes, but is not limited to,  
135 psychotherapy, hypnotherapy, and sex therapy. The practice of  
136 mental health counseling also includes counseling, behavior  
137 modification, consultation, client-centered advocacy, crisis  
138 intervention, and the provision of needed information and  
139 education to clients, when using methods of a psychological  
140 nature to evaluate, assess, diagnose, treat, and prevent  
141 emotional and mental disorders and dysfunctions (whether  
142 cognitive, affective, or behavioral), behavioral disorders,  
143 sexual dysfunction, alcoholism, or substance abuse. The practice  
144 of mental health counseling may also include clinical research  
145 into more effective psychotherapeutic modalities for the  
146 treatment and prevention of such conditions.

147 (c) The terms "diagnose" and "treat," as used in this  
148 chapter, when considered in isolation or in conjunction with any  
149 provision of the rules of the board, may not be construed to  
150 permit the performance of any act that mental health counselors

151 are not educated and trained to perform, including, but not  
 152 limited to, admitting persons to hospitals for treatment of the  
 153 foregoing conditions, treating persons in hospitals without  
 154 medical supervision, prescribing medicinal drugs as defined in  
 155 chapter 465, authorizing clinical laboratory procedures or  
 156 radiological procedures, or the use of electroconvulsive  
 157 therapy. In addition, this definition may not be construed to  
 158 permit any person licensed, provisionally licensed, ~~registered,~~  
 159 or certified pursuant to this chapter to describe or label any  
 160 test, report, or procedure as "psychological," except to relate  
 161 specifically to the definition of practice authorized in this  
 162 subsection.

163 ~~(5)-(15)~~ "Licensed associate ~~Registered~~ clinical social  
 164 worker ~~intern~~" means a person licensed ~~registered~~ under this  
 165 chapter who is completing the postgraduate clinical social work  
 166 experience requirement specified in s. 491.005(1)(c).

167 ~~(6)-(16)~~ "Licensed associate ~~Registered~~ marriage and family  
 168 therapist ~~intern~~" means a person licensed ~~registered~~ under this  
 169 chapter who is completing the post-master's clinical experience  
 170 requirement specified in s. 491.005(3)(c).

171 ~~(7)-(17)~~ "Licensed associate ~~Registered~~ mental health  
 172 counselor ~~intern~~" means a person licensed ~~registered~~ under this  
 173 chapter who is completing the post-master's clinical experience  
 174 requirement specified in s. 491.005(4)(c).

175 Section 2. Section 491.0045, Florida Statutes, is amended

176 to read:

177 491.0045 Associate license ~~Intern registration~~;  
 178 requirements.-

179 (1) An individual who has not satisfied the postgraduate  
 180 or post-master's level experience requirements, as specified in  
 181 s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c), must apply for an associate  
 182 license ~~register as an intern~~ in the profession for which he or  
 183 she is seeking full licensure before commencing the post-  
 184 master's experience requirement or an individual who intends to  
 185 satisfy part of the required graduate-level practicum,  
 186 internship, or field experience, outside the academic arena for  
 187 any profession, and must apply for an associate license ~~register~~  
 188 ~~as an intern~~ in the profession for which he or she is seeking  
 189 full licensure before commencing the practicum, internship, or  
 190 field experience.

191 (2) The department shall license ~~register~~ as an associate  
 192 ~~a~~ clinical social worker ~~intern~~, associate marriage and family  
 193 therapist ~~intern~~, or associate mental health counselor ~~intern~~  
 194 each applicant whom ~~who~~ the board certifies has:

195 (a) Completed the application form and remitted a  
 196 nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
 197 board rule;

198 (b)1. Completed the education requirements as specified in  
 199 s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c) for the profession for which  
 200 he or she is applying for licensure, if needed; and

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201           2. Submitted an acceptable supervision plan, as determined  
202 by the board, for meeting the practicum, internship, or field  
203 work required for licensure that was not satisfied in his or her  
204 graduate program.

205           (c) Identified a qualified supervisor.

206           (3) An individual licensed as an associate ~~registered~~  
207 under this section must remain under supervision while  
208 practicing under associate licensure ~~registered intern~~ status.

209           (4) An individual who fails to comply with this section  
210 may not be granted a full license under this chapter, and any  
211 time spent by the individual completing the experience  
212 requirement as specified in s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c)  
213 before being issued an associate license ~~registering as an~~  
214 ~~intern~~ does not count toward completion of the requirement.

215           (5) An associate license ~~intern registration~~ is valid for  
216 5 years.

217           (6) Any registration issued after March 31, 2017, expires  
218 60 months after the date it is issued. The board may make a one-  
219 time exception to the requirements of this subsection in  
220 emergency or hardship cases, as defined by board rule, if the  
221 candidate has passed the theory and practice examination  
222 described in s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), and (4)(d).

223           (7) An individual who has held a provisional license  
224 issued by the board may not apply for an associate license  
225 ~~intern registration~~ in the same profession.

226 Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1), paragraph (c)  
 227 of subsection (3), and paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (4)  
 228 of section 491.005, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

229 491.005 Licensure by examination.—

230 (1) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—Upon verification of  
 231 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
 232 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a clinical  
 233 social worker to an applicant whom the board certifies has met  
 234 all of the following criteria:

235 (c) Completed at least 2 years of clinical social work  
 236 experience, which took place subsequent to completion of a  
 237 graduate degree in social work at an institution meeting the  
 238 accreditation requirements of this section, under the  
 239 supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the  
 240 equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the  
 241 board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to  
 242 satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant  
 243 to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If the applicant's  
 244 graduate program was not a program which emphasized direct  
 245 clinical patient or client health care services as described in  
 246 subparagraph (b)2., the supervised experience requirement must  
 247 take place after the applicant has completed a minimum of 15  
 248 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework required. A  
 249 doctoral internship may be applied toward the clinical social  
 250 work experience requirement. ~~A licensed mental health~~

251 ~~professional must be on the premises when clinical services are~~  
252 ~~provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.~~

253 (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.—Upon verification of  
254 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
255 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a marriage  
256 and family therapist to an applicant whom the board certifies  
257 has met all of the following criteria:

258 (c) Completed at least 2 years of clinical experience  
259 during which 50 percent of the applicant's clients were  
260 receiving marriage and family therapy services, which must be at  
261 the post-master's level under the supervision of a licensed  
262 marriage and family therapist with at least 5 years of  
263 experience, or the equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as  
264 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice  
265 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must  
266 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If  
267 a graduate has a master's degree with a major emphasis in  
268 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field which did  
269 not include all of the coursework required by paragraph (b),  
270 credit for the post-master's level clinical experience may not  
271 commence until the applicant has completed a minimum of 10 of  
272 the courses required by paragraph (b), as determined by the  
273 board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the  
274 course credits must have been completed in the area of marriage  
275 and family systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 2 years

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276 of required experience, the applicant must ~~shall~~ provide direct  
277 individual, group, or family therapy and counseling to cases  
278 including those involving unmarried dyads, married couples,  
279 separating and divorcing couples, and family groups that include  
280 children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the  
281 clinical experience requirement. ~~A licensed mental health~~  
282 ~~professional must be on the premises when clinical services are~~  
283 ~~provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.~~  
284

285 For the purposes of dual licensure, the department shall license  
286 as a marriage and family therapist any person who meets the  
287 requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees for dual licensure may not  
288 exceed those stated in this subsection.

289 (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of  
290 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
291 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a mental  
292 health counselor to an applicant whom the board certifies has  
293 met all of the following criteria:

294 (b)1. Attained a minimum of an earned master's degree from  
295 a mental health counseling program accredited by the Council for  
296 the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs  
297 which consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours  
298 of clinical and didactic instruction, including a course in  
299 human sexuality and a course in substance abuse. If the master's  
300 degree is earned from a program related to the practice of

301 mental health counseling which is not accredited by the Council  
302 for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational  
303 Programs, ~~then~~ the coursework and practicum, internship, or  
304 fieldwork must consist of at least 60 semester hours or 80  
305 quarter hours and meet all of the following requirements:

306       a. Thirty-three semester hours or 44 quarter hours of  
307 graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester  
308 hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of  
309 the following 11 content areas: counseling theories and  
310 practice; human growth and development; diagnosis and treatment  
311 of psychopathology; human sexuality; group theories and  
312 practice; individual evaluation and assessment; career and  
313 lifestyle assessment; research and program evaluation; social  
314 and cultural foundations; substance abuse; and legal, ethical,  
315 and professional standards issues in the practice of mental  
316 health counseling. Courses in research, thesis or dissertation  
317 work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied  
318 toward this requirement.

319       b. A minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of  
320 graduate-level coursework addressing diagnostic processes,  
321 including differential diagnosis and the use of the current  
322 diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the American  
323 Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of  
324 Mental Disorders. The graduate program must have emphasized the  
325 common core curricular experience.

326 c. The equivalent, as determined by the board, of at least  
327 700 hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical practicum,  
328 internship, or field experience that includes at least 280 hours  
329 of direct client services, as required in the accrediting  
330 standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and  
331 Related Educational Programs for mental health counseling  
332 programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy the post-  
333 master's clinical experience requirement.

334 2. Provided additional documentation if a course title  
335 that appears on the applicant's transcript does not clearly  
336 identify the content of the coursework. The documentation must  
337 include, but is not limited to, a syllabus or catalog  
338 description published for the course.

339  
340 Education and training in mental health counseling must have  
341 been received in an institution of higher education that, at the  
342 time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an  
343 institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for  
344 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or  
345 was a member in good standing with Universities Canada, or an  
346 institution of higher education located outside the United  
347 States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled  
348 and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard  
349 of training substantially equivalent to the standards of  
350 training of those institutions in the United States which are

351 accredited by an institutional accrediting body recognized by  
352 the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor  
353 organization. Such foreign education and training must have been  
354 received in an institution or program of higher education  
355 officially recognized by the government of the country in which  
356 it is located as an institution or program to train students to  
357 practice as mental health counselors. The applicant has the  
358 burden of establishing that the requirements of this provision  
359 have been met, and the board shall require documentation, such  
360 as an evaluation by a foreign equivalency determination service,  
361 as evidence that the applicant's graduate degree program and  
362 education were equivalent to an accredited program in this  
363 country. Beginning July 1, 2025, an applicant must have a  
364 master's degree from a program that is accredited by the Council  
365 for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational  
366 Programs, the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation  
367 Council, or an equivalent accrediting body which consists of at  
368 least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours to apply for  
369 licensure under this paragraph.

370 (c) Completed at least 2 years of clinical experience in  
371 mental health counseling, which must be at the post-master's  
372 level under the supervision of a licensed mental health  
373 counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as  
374 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice  
375 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must

376 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If  
 377 a graduate has a master's degree with a major related to the  
 378 practice of mental health counseling which did not include all  
 379 the coursework required under sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a. and b.,  
 380 credit for the post-master's level clinical experience may not  
 381 commence until the applicant has completed a minimum of seven of  
 382 the courses required under sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a. and b., as  
 383 determined by the board, one of which must be a course in  
 384 psychopathology or abnormal psychology. A doctoral internship  
 385 may be applied toward the clinical experience requirement. A  
 386 ~~licensed mental health professional must be on the premises when~~  
 387 ~~clinical services are provided by a registered intern in a~~  
 388 ~~private practice setting.~~

389 Section 4. Section 491.007, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 390 to read:

391 491.007 Renewal of license, ~~registration,~~ or certificate.—

392 (1) The board or department shall prescribe by rule a  
 393 method for the biennial renewal of licenses or certificates at a  
 394 fee set by rule, not to exceed \$250.

395 (2) Each applicant for renewal must ~~shall~~ present  
 396 satisfactory evidence that, in the period since the license or  
 397 certificate was issued, the applicant has completed continuing  
 398 education requirements set by rule of the board or department.  
 399 No ~~Not~~ more than 25 classroom hours of continuing education per  
 400 year may ~~shall~~ be required. A certified master social worker is

401 exempt from the continuing education requirements for the first  
 402 renewal of the certificate.

403 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 491.009, Florida  
 404 Statutes, is amended to read:

405 491.009 Discipline.—

406 (1) The following acts constitute grounds for denial of a  
 407 license or disciplinary action, as specified in s. 456.072(2) or  
 408 s. 491.017:

409 (a) Attempting to obtain, obtaining, or renewing a  
 410 license, ~~registration,~~ or certificate under this chapter by  
 411 bribery or fraudulent misrepresentation or through an error of  
 412 the board or the department.

413 (b) Having a license, registration, or certificate to  
 414 practice a comparable profession revoked, suspended, or  
 415 otherwise acted against, including the denial of certification  
 416 or licensure by another state, territory, or country.

417 (c) Being convicted or found guilty of, regardless of  
 418 adjudication, or having entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a  
 419 crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice  
 420 of his or her profession or the ability to practice his or her  
 421 profession. However, in the case of a plea of nolo contendere,  
 422 the board shall allow the person who is the subject of the  
 423 disciplinary proceeding to present evidence in mitigation  
 424 relevant to the underlying charges and circumstances surrounding  
 425 the plea.

426 (d) False, deceptive, or misleading advertising or  
 427 obtaining a fee or other thing of value on the representation  
 428 that beneficial results from any treatment will be guaranteed.

429 (e) Advertising, practicing, or attempting to practice  
 430 under a name other than one's own.

431 (f) Maintaining a professional association with any person  
 432 who the applicant, licensee, ~~registered intern,~~ or  
 433 certificateholder knows, or has reason to believe, is in  
 434 violation of this chapter or of a rule of the department or the  
 435 board.

436 (g) Knowingly aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising  
 437 any nonlicensed, ~~nonregistered,~~ or noncertified person to hold  
 438 himself or herself out as licensed, ~~registered,~~ or certified  
 439 under this chapter.

440 (h) Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation  
 441 placed upon a person licensed, ~~registered,~~ or certified under  
 442 this chapter.

443 (i) Willfully making or filing a false report or record;  
 444 failing to file a report or record required by state or federal  
 445 law; willfully impeding or obstructing the filing of a report or  
 446 record; or inducing another person to make or file a false  
 447 report or record or to impede or obstruct the filing of a report  
 448 or record. Such report or record includes only a report or  
 449 record which requires the signature of a person licensed,  
 450 ~~registered,~~ or certified under this chapter.

451 (j) Paying a kickback, rebate, bonus, or other  
452 remuneration for receiving a patient or client, or receiving a  
453 kickback, rebate, bonus, or other remuneration for referring a  
454 patient or client to another provider of mental health care  
455 services or to a provider of health care services or goods;  
456 referring a patient or client to oneself for services on a fee-  
457 paid basis when those services are already being paid for by  
458 some other public or private entity; or entering into a  
459 reciprocal referral agreement.

460 (k) Committing any act upon a patient or client which  
461 would constitute sexual battery or which would constitute sexual  
462 misconduct as defined pursuant to s. 491.0111.

463 (l) Making misleading, deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent  
464 representations in the practice of any profession licensed,  
465 ~~registered~~, or certified under this chapter.

466 (m) Soliciting patients or clients personally, or through  
467 an agent, through the use of fraud, intimidation, undue  
468 influence, or a form of overreaching or vexatious conduct.

469 (n) Failing to make available to a patient or client, upon  
470 written request, copies of tests, reports, or documents in the  
471 possession or under the control of the licensee, ~~registered~~  
472 ~~intern~~, or certificateholder which have been prepared for and  
473 paid for by the patient or client.

474 (o) Failing to respond within 30 days to a written  
475 communication from the department or the board concerning any

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476 investigation by the department or the board, or failing to make  
477 available any relevant records with respect to any investigation  
478 about the licensee's, ~~registered intern's,~~ or  
479 certificateholder's conduct or background.

480 (p) Being unable to practice the profession for which he  
481 or she is licensed, ~~registered,~~ or certified under this chapter  
482 with reasonable skill or competence as a result of any mental or  
483 physical condition or by reason of illness; drunkenness; or  
484 excessive use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other  
485 substance. In enforcing this paragraph, upon a finding by the  
486 State Surgeon General, the State Surgeon General's designee, or  
487 the board that probable cause exists to believe that the  
488 licensee, ~~registered intern,~~ or certificateholder is unable to  
489 practice the profession because of the reasons stated in this  
490 paragraph, the department shall have the authority to compel a  
491 licensee, ~~registered intern,~~ or certificateholder to submit to a  
492 mental or physical examination by psychologists, physicians, or  
493 other licensees under this chapter, designated by the department  
494 or board. If the licensee, ~~registered intern,~~ or  
495 certificateholder refuses to comply with such order, the  
496 department's order directing the examination may be enforced by  
497 filing a petition for enforcement in the circuit court in the  
498 circuit in which the licensee, ~~registered intern,~~ or  
499 certificateholder resides or does business. The licensee,  ~~500 registered intern,~~ or certificateholder against whom the

501 petition is filed may not be named or identified by initials in  
 502 any public court records or documents, and the proceedings must  
 503 ~~shall~~ be closed to the public. The department is ~~shall be~~  
 504 entitled to the summary procedure provided in s. 51.011. A  
 505 licensee, ~~registered intern,~~ or certificateholder affected under  
 506 this paragraph must, ~~shall~~ at reasonable intervals, be afforded  
 507 an opportunity to demonstrate that he or she can resume the  
 508 competent practice for which he or she is licensed, ~~registered,~~  
 509 or certified with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

510 (q) Performing any treatment or prescribing any therapy  
 511 which, by the prevailing standards of the mental health  
 512 professions in the community, would constitute experimentation  
 513 on human subjects, without first obtaining full, informed, and  
 514 written consent.

515 (r) Failing to meet the minimum standards of performance  
 516 in professional activities when measured against generally  
 517 prevailing peer performance, including the undertaking of  
 518 activities for which the licensee, ~~registered intern,~~ or  
 519 certificateholder is not qualified by training or experience.

520 (s) Delegating professional responsibilities to a person  
 521 who the licensee, ~~registered intern,~~ or certificateholder knows  
 522 or has reason to know is not qualified by training or experience  
 523 to perform such responsibilities.

524 (t) Violating a rule relating to the regulation of the  
 525 profession or a lawful order of the department or the board

526 | previously entered in a disciplinary hearing.

527 |       (u) Failure of the licensee, ~~registered intern,~~ or  
 528 | certificateholder to maintain in confidence a communication made  
 529 | by a patient or client in the context of such services, except  
 530 | as provided in s. 491.0147.

531 |       (v) Making public statements which are derived from test  
 532 | data, client contacts, or behavioral research and which identify  
 533 | or damage research subjects or clients.

534 |       (w) Violating any provision of this chapter or chapter  
 535 | 456, or any rules adopted pursuant thereto.

536 |       Section 6. Paragraphs (i) through (l) of subsection (1) of  
 537 | section 491.012, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

538 |       491.012 Violations; penalty; injunction.—

539 |       (1) It is unlawful and a violation of this chapter for any  
 540 | person to:

541 |       (i) Practice clinical social work in this state for  
 542 | compensation, unless the person holds a valid, active license to  
 543 | practice clinical social work issued under ~~pursuant to~~ this  
 544 | chapter or is a licensed associate clinical social worker ~~an~~  
 545 | ~~intern registered~~ pursuant to s. 491.0045.

546 |       (j) Practice marriage and family therapy in this state for  
 547 | compensation, unless the person holds a valid, active license to  
 548 | practice marriage and family therapy issued under ~~pursuant to~~  
 549 | this chapter or is a licensed associate marriage and family  
 550 | therapist licensed ~~an intern registered~~ pursuant to s. 491.0045.

551 (k) Practice mental health counseling in this state for  
 552 compensation, unless the person holds a valid, active license to  
 553 practice mental health counseling issued under ~~pursuant to~~ this  
 554 chapter or is a licensed associate mental health counselor  
 555 licensed an intern ~~registered~~ pursuant to s. 491.0045.

556 (1) Use the following titles or any combination thereof,  
 557 unless he or she holds a valid associate license ~~registration as~~  
 558 ~~an intern~~ issued under ~~pursuant to~~ this chapter:

559 1. "Licensed associate ~~Registered~~ clinical social worker  
 560 ~~intern.~~"

561 2. "Licensed associate ~~Registered~~ marriage and family  
 562 therapist ~~intern.~~"

563 3. "Licensed associate ~~Registered~~ mental health counselor  
 564 ~~intern.~~"

565 Section 7. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section  
 566 491.014, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

567 491.014 Exemptions.—

568 (1) No provision of this chapter shall be construed to  
 569 limit the practice of physicians licensed pursuant to chapter  
 570 458 or chapter 459, or psychologists licensed pursuant to  
 571 chapter 490, so long as they do not unlawfully hold themselves  
 572 out to the public as possessing a license, provisional license,  
 573 ~~registration,~~ or certificate issued pursuant to this chapter or  
 574 use a professional title protected by this chapter.

575 (2) No provision of this chapter shall be construed to

576 | limit the practice of nursing, school psychology, psychology, or  
577 | occupational therapy, or to prevent qualified members of other  
578 | professions from doing work of a nature consistent with their  
579 | training and licensure, so long as they do not hold themselves  
580 | out to the public as possessing a license, provisional license,  
581 | ~~registration~~, or certificate issued pursuant to this chapter or  
582 | use a title protected by this chapter.

583 |         (4) No person shall be required to be licensed,  
584 | provisionally licensed, ~~registered~~, or certified under this  
585 | chapter who:

586 |             (a) Is a salaried employee of a government agency; a  
587 | developmental disability facility or program; a mental health,  
588 | alcohol, or drug abuse facility operating under chapter 393,  
589 | chapter 394, or chapter 397; the statewide child care resource  
590 | and referral network operating under s. 1002.92; a child-placing  
591 | or child-caring agency licensed pursuant to chapter 409; a  
592 | domestic violence center certified pursuant to chapter 39; an  
593 | accredited academic institution; or a research institution, if  
594 | such employee is performing duties for which he or she was  
595 | trained and hired solely within the confines of such agency,  
596 | facility, or institution, so long as the employee is not held  
597 | out to the public as a clinical social worker, mental health  
598 | counselor, or marriage and family therapist.

599 |             (b) Is a salaried employee of a private, nonprofit  
600 | organization providing counseling services to children, youth,

601 and families, if such services are provided for no charge, if  
 602 such employee is performing duties for which he or she was  
 603 trained and hired, so long as the employee is not held out to  
 604 the public as a clinical social worker, mental health counselor,  
 605 or marriage and family therapist.

606 (c) Is a student providing services regulated under this  
 607 chapter who is pursuing a course of study which leads to a  
 608 degree in a profession regulated by this chapter, is providing  
 609 services in a training setting, provided such services and  
 610 associated activities constitute part of a supervised course of  
 611 study, and is designated by the title "student associate  
 612 intern."

613 (d) Is not a resident of this state but offers services in  
 614 this state, provided:

615 1. Such services are performed for no more than 15 days in  
 616 any calendar year; and

617 2. Such nonresident is licensed or certified to practice  
 618 the services provided by a state or territory of the United  
 619 States or by a foreign country or province.

620 Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 491.0149, Florida  
 621 Statutes, is amended to read:

622 491.0149 Display of license; use of professional title on  
 623 promotional materials.—

624 (2) (a) A person licensed ~~registered~~ under this chapter as  
 625 an associate ~~a~~ clinical social worker ~~intern~~, associate marriage

626 and family therapist ~~intern~~, or associate mental health  
627 counselor ~~intern~~ shall conspicuously display the valid associate  
628 license registration issued by the department or a true copy  
629 thereof at each location at which the licensed associate  
630 ~~registered intern~~ is completing the experience requirements.

631 (b) A licensed associate ~~registered~~ clinical social worker  
632 ~~intern~~ shall include the words "licensed associate ~~registered~~  
633 clinical social worker ~~intern~~," a licensed associate ~~registered~~  
634 marriage and family therapist ~~intern~~ shall include the words  
635 "licensed associate ~~registered~~ marriage and family therapist  
636 ~~intern~~," and a licensed associate ~~registered~~ mental health  
637 counselor ~~intern~~ shall include the words "licensed associate  
638 ~~registered~~ mental health counselor ~~intern~~" on all promotional  
639 materials, including cards, brochures, stationery,  
640 advertisements, and signs, naming the licensed associate  
641 ~~registered intern~~.

642 Section 9. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
643 414.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

644 414.065 Noncompliance with work requirements.—

645 (4) EXCEPTIONS TO NONCOMPLIANCE PENALTIES.—Unless  
646 otherwise provided, the situations listed in this subsection  
647 shall constitute exceptions to the penalties for noncompliance  
648 with participation requirements, except that these situations do  
649 not constitute exceptions to the applicable time limit for  
650 receipt of temporary cash assistance:

651           (c) *Noncompliance related to treatment or remediation of*  
652 *past effects of domestic violence.*—An individual who is  
653 determined to be unable to comply with the work requirements  
654 under this section due to mental or physical impairment related  
655 to past incidents of domestic violence may be exempt from work  
656 requirements, except that such individual shall comply with a  
657 plan that specifies alternative requirements that prepare the  
658 individual for self-sufficiency while providing for the safety  
659 of the individual and the individual's dependents. A participant  
660 who is determined to be out of compliance with the alternative  
661 requirement plan shall be subject to the penalties under  
662 subsection (1). The plan must include counseling or a course of  
663 treatment necessary for the individual to resume participation.  
664 The need for treatment and the expected duration of such  
665 treatment must be verified by a physician licensed under chapter  
666 458 or chapter 459; a psychologist licensed under s. 490.005(1),  
667 s. 490.006, or the provision identified as s. 490.013(2) in s.  
668 1, chapter 81-235, Laws of Florida; a therapist as defined in s.  
669 491.003(2) or (10) ~~(7)~~; or a treatment professional who is  
670 registered under s. 39.905(1)(g), is authorized to maintain  
671 confidentiality under s. 90.5036(1)(d), and has a minimum of 2  
672 years' experience at a certified domestic violence center. An  
673 exception granted under this paragraph does not automatically  
674 constitute an exception from the time limitations on benefits  
675 specified under s. 414.105.

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Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.