

## **DRAFT Chapter 246-810 WAC**

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### **COUNSELORS**

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## 246-810-010

### Definitions.

The definitions in [RCW 18.19.020](#) and this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agency" means:

(a) An agency or facility operated, licensed, or certified by the state of Washington to provide a specific counseling service or services;

(b) A federally recognized Indian tribe located within the state; ~~or~~

(c) A county as listed in chapter [36.04](#) RCW; ~~or~~

(d) After January 1, 2028, a federally qualified health center as defined in WAC 182-548-1100 that is located in Washington state.

(2) "Agency affiliated counselor" means a person registered, certified, or licensed under chapter [18.19](#) RCW, and this chapter, who is engaged in counseling and employed by, or a student intern working in, an agency listed in WAC [246-810-016](#) or an agency recognized under WAC [246-810-017](#) to provide a specific counseling service or services.

(3) "Approved educational program" means any college or university accredited by an accreditation body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or United States Department of Education.

~~(43)~~ "Certified adviser" means a person certified under chapter **18.19** RCW, and this chapter, who is engaged in private practice counseling to the extent authorized in WAC **246-810-021**.

(54) "Certified agency affiliated counselor" means an individual certified under chapter 18.19 RCW, and this chapter, who is ~~and~~ practicing counseling with a recognized agency.

~~(456)~~ "Certified counselor" means a person certified under chapter **18.19** RCW, and this chapter, who is engaged in private practice counseling to the extent authorized in WAC **246-810-0201**.

~~(576)~~ "Client" means an individual who receives or participates in counseling or group counseling.

~~(687)~~ "Consultation" means the professional assistance and practice guidance that a certified counselor receives from a counseling-related professional credentialed under chapter **18.130** RCW and listed in WAC 246-810-026 (2).

Consultation This may include:

(a) ~~Helping~~ Assisting the certified counselor focus on counseling practice objectives;

(b) Refining counseling modalities;

(c) Providing support to progress in difficult or sensitive cases;

(d) Expanding the available decision-making resources; and

(e) Assisting in discovering alternative approaches.

~~(798)~~ "Counseling" means employing any therapeutic techniques including, but not limited to, social work, mental health counseling, marriage and family therapy, and hypnotherapy, for a fee that offer, assist, or attempt to assist, an individual or individuals in the amelioration or adjustment of mental, emotional, or behavioral problems, and includes therapeutic techniques to achieve sensitivity and awareness of self and others and the development of human potential. For the purpose of this chapter, nothing may be construed to imply that the practice of hypnotherapy is necessarily limited to counseling.

~~(8109)~~ "Counselor" means an individual who engages in the practice of counseling to the public for a fee, including for the purposes of this chapter, agency affiliated counselors, certified counselors, certified advisers, and hypnotherapists, ~~and until July 1, 2010, registered counselors.~~

~~(9110)~~ "Department" means the Washington state Department of Hhealth.

~~(1011)~~ "Fee" ~~as referred to in RCW means compensation received by the counselor for counseling services provided, regardless of the source.~~

(124) "Hypnotherapist" means a person registered under chapter 18.19 RCW, and this chapter, who is practicing hypnosis as a modality.

(13) "Licensed agency affiliated counselor" means an individual licensed under chapter 18.19 RCW, and this chapter, and who is practicing counseling with a recognized agency.

~~(1214)~~ "Licensed health care practitioner" means a licensed practitioner under the following chapters:

(a) Physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW.

(b) Osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW.

(c) Psychiatric registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(d) Naturopathic physician licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW.

(e) Psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW.

(f) Independent clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, mental health counselor, or advanced social worker licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW.

(g) Licensed Behavioral Analyst under chapter 18.380 RCW.

(15) "Mental health professional" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 71.05.020.

~~(1315) "Private practice counseling" means the practice of counseling by a certified counselor or certified adviser as specified in WAC 246-810-0201 or 246-810-021.~~

(14166) "Psychotherapy" means the practice of counseling using diagnosis of mental disorders according to the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, and the development of treatment plans for counseling based on diagnosis of mental disorders in accordance with established practice standards.

~~(15187) "Recognized" means acknowledged or formally accepted by the secretary.~~

(16178) "Recognized agency or facility" means an agency or facility that has requested and been ~~recognized~~ authorized under WAC 246-810-017 to employ agency affiliated counselors to perform a specific counseling service, or services for those purposes only.

(171819) "Registered agency affiliated counselor" means any individual, including student interns and juvenile probation counselors who are employees of the juvenile court under RCW 13.04.035 and 13.04.040 and juvenile court employees providing functional family therapy, aggression replacement training, or other evidence-based programs approved by the department of children, youth, and families, who is registered under this chapter and practicing counseling with a recognized agency. This includes juvenile probation counselors and student interns.

~~(1920)~~ "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health or the secretary's designee.

~~(182021)~~ "Student intern" means a person currently enrolled in an educational program for a degree that requires completing an internship or practicum as a component of ~~that~~ their educational degree program. -Student interns ~~shall~~ may be a registered agency affiliated counselor.

~~(18212)~~ "Supervised experience" means any counseling experience that was attained with an active credential, during or after completion of a qualifying educational program, under the supervision of a credentialed mental health professional who can independently assess and diagnose as part of their scope of practice.

~~(18223)~~ "Supervision" means the oversight that a counseling-related professional credentialed under chapter **18.130** RCW provides.

~~(19234)~~ "Unprofessional conduct" means the conduct described in RCW **18.130.180**.

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## 246-810-011

### Exempt activities and individuals.

Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prevent ~~This chapter does not prevent~~ or restrict the activities and individuals as listed under RCW 18.19.040. ∴

~~(1) The practice of a profession or occupation by a person who is either registered, certified, licensed, or similarly regulated under the laws of this state and who is performing services within the person's authorized scope of practice, including any attorney admitted to practice law in this state when providing counseling incidental to and in the course of providing legal counsel;~~

~~(2) The practice of counseling by an employee or trainee of any federal agency, or the practice of counseling by a student of a college or university, if the employee, trainee, or student is practicing solely under the supervision of and accountable to the agency, college, or university, through which he or she they performs such functions as part of his or her their position for no additional fee other than ordinary compensation;~~

~~(3) The practice of counseling by a person for no compensation;~~

~~(4) The practice of counseling by persons offering services for public and private nonprofit organizations or charities not primarily engaged in counseling for a fee when approved by the organizations or agencies for whom they render their services;~~

~~(5) Evaluation, consultation, planning, policymaking, research, or related services conducted by social scientists for private corporations or public agencies;~~

~~(6) The practice of counseling by a person under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or organization, or the practice of religion itself;~~

~~(7) The practice of counseling by peer counselors who use their own experience to encourage and support people with similar conditions or activities related to the training of peer counselors; and~~

~~(8) Counselors who reside outside Washington state from providing up to ten days per quarter of training or workshops in the state, as long as they do not hold themselves out to be registered or certified in Washington state.~~

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## **246-810-0120**

### **Application process.**

(1) ~~An applicant for Applicants for an~~ agency affiliated counselor, certified counselor, certified adviser, or hypnotherapist credential shall submit to the department:

~~(a) must apply~~ An application on forms ~~established provided~~ by the ~~secretary~~ department under RCW 18.19.090;

~~(b) Official transcripts to verify completion of any coursework and degrees if necessary for the credential;~~

~~(c) Documentation to verify completion of any supervised experience if necessary for the credential;~~

~~(d) Employment verification if necessary for the credential;~~

~~(e) Applicable fee(s) required under WAC 246-810-990; and~~

~~(f) Any additional supporting documentation requested by the department.~~

~~(2) The application for agency affiliated counselor, certified counselor, or certified adviser, must include a description of the applicant's therapeutic orientation, discipline, theory, or technique.~~

~~(3) A student intern can choose to practice as a registered agency affiliated counselor or under an exemption under RCW 18.19.040. A student intern who chooses to apply to be a registered agency affiliated counselor must also provide the name of their educational institution, planned internship or practicum dates, a point of contact from the educational institution, and type of anticipated degree to be completed, on forms provided by the department.~~

~~(4) The secretary may require additional documentation to determine whether an applicant meets the qualifications for the credential and if there are any grounds for denial of the credential.~~

~~(5) For degrees that were obtained in a foreign country, the transcript must also be translated, evaluated and validated as the equivalent of an academic program approved by CHEA or the USDOE, by:~~

~~(a) An organization that is a current member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES); or~~

~~(b) An organization that is a current member of the Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. (AICE).~~

~~(6554) Each applicant must pay the applicable fee as identified in WAC **246-810-990**.~~

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## **246-810-0121**

### **Foreign transcript evaluation requirements.**

(1) For required degree(s) obtained outside the United States and its territories, the applicant must have the transcript translated and, evaluated by:

(a) An organization that is a current member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES); or

(b) An organization that is a current member of the Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. (AICE).

(2) The evaluating organization must validate the degree to determine the equivalence to an academic program approved by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the United States Department of Education (USDOE). The department will determine if the degree satisfies the educational requirements of this chapter.

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## **246-810-0130**

### **State agency employee credentialing requirements.**

~~(1) Until July 1, 2010, an employee of a state agency who is practicing counseling, as part of his or her position, must be credentialed as a registered counselor or an agency affiliated counselor unless they are exempt under WAC **246-810-011**.~~

~~(2) On and after July 1, 2010, an An employee of a state agency who is, practicing inge counseling, as part of their ~~his or her position~~ employment, must be credentialed as an agency affiliated counselor unless they are exempt under WAC **246-810-011**.~~



(32) A person may not, for a fee or as a part of ~~their~~ ~~his or her~~ position as an employee of a state agency, practice hypnotherapy without being registered to practice as a hypnotherapist unless they are exempt under WAC **246-810-011**.

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### **246-810-0131**

#### **Requirements to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult.**

(1) As required by chapter 26.44 RCW, all counselors shall immediately report abuse or neglect of a child if the counselor has reasonable cause to believe that an incident has occurred.

(2) As required by chapter 74.34 RCW, all counselors must report suspected abandonment, abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult, when there is reasonable cause to believe that abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect has occurred.

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### **246-810-0132**

#### **Sexual misconduct regulations.**

The definitions and prohibitions on sexual misconduct described in WAC 246-16-100 apply to counselors, except a counselor shall never engage, or attempt to engage, in the activities listed in WAC 246-16-100 (1).

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### **246-810-0133**

#### **Mandatory reporting.**

Individuals and other entities must report unprofessional conduct in compliance with the Uniform Disciplinary Act in chapter 18.130 RCW and the standards of professional conduct in chapter 246-16 WAC.

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### **246-810-01501**

#### **Agency affiliated counselor: Scope of practice and application ~~credentialing~~ requirements.**

(1) An agency affiliated counselor may only provide counseling services within an agency and as defined in RCW 18.19.215 ~~within an agency, part of his or her~~

~~(a) employment as an agency affiliated counselor for a recognized agency or practicum.~~

~~—(2) An applicant for an agency affiliated counselor must:~~

~~— Be employed by, or have an offer of employment from, an agency or facility identified in WAC 246-810-016, or~~

~~(b) Be a student intern working in an agency for the duration of their student internship or practicum. The placement of a student intern must be coordinated with the educational program.~~

~~(23)(a) An applicant must submit an application to the department within the first thirty days of employment, or student internship placement, at an agency in order to continue working while the application is processed.~~

~~(b) If the department requests additional information or documentation, the applicant must resolve the request to continue working. If the credential is not issued within 90 days of the department's request, they must stop working. An applicant must complete any outstanding deficiencies within ninety days of the date the department issues a deficiency letter. If the applicant does not satisfy the outstanding licensure requirements within ninety days, the applicant must stop working.~~

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### 246-810-0151

~~**Qualifications to become a registered agency affiliated counselor.**~~

~~**Registered agency affiliated counselor credentialing requirements.**~~

~~An applicant for a registered agency affiliated counselor must:~~

~~(1) Be employed by, or have an offer of employment from, an agency or facility identified in WAC 246-810-016; or~~

~~(2) Be a student intern working in an agency for the duration of their student internship or practicum. The placement of a student intern should be coordinated with the educational program.~~

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### 246-810-0152

~~**Qualifications to become a certified agency affiliated counselor.**~~

~~**Certified agency affiliated counselor credentialing requirements.**~~

~~(1) An applicant for a certified agency affiliated counselor credential must:~~

(a) Be employed by, or have a current offer of employment from, an agency or facility identified in WAC 246-810-016;

(b) Have a bachelor's degree in counseling or the social sciences from an accredited college or university as specified in RCW 18.19.090;

(c) Meet the minimum coursework requirements in WAC 246-810-0153; and

(d) Have a minimum of 5 years' experience gained in accordance with subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Supervised experience must:

(a) be in direct treatment of persons with a mental disorder and is gained under the supervision of a mental health professional who is able to independently assess and diagnose provide assessments and diagnoses within the scope of practice of their credential;

(b) be obtained under a credential to practice counseling; and

(c) be obtained after the completion of their degree or through an internship or practicum that is part of their degree program requirements.

(3) For an applicants whose experience was obtained prior to ~~the creation of this credential~~ July 23, 2023 January 1, 2025, supervision may have been provided by a registered agency affiliated counselor who was designated as a mental health professional.

(4) For supervised experience obtained in private practice, the supervision must be provided by an individual who meets the definition of a mental health professional as defined in this chapter.

(5) Experience earned out of state may be considered if:

(a) the applicant held a credential substantially equivalent to a counselor;

(b) in that state;

(c) while in good standing; and

(d) supervision was provided under a mental health professional as described in section (2)(a).

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## **246-810-0153**

### **Coursework requirements for certified agency affiliated counselors**

An applicant for the agency affiliated counselor certification must meet one of the following methods by completing bachelor-level classes, for credit, from an approved educational program:

(1) Completion of a bachelor's degree in psychology, social work, or behavioral healthcare; or

(2) Completion of 4 courses from at least two knowledge areas listed below and shown in table 1.

(a) Human Behavior and Counseling, which include topics below but are not limited to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (i) Counseling;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) Psychology;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (iii) Applied Behavior Science;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (iv) Social Work;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v) Social Welfare;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (vi) Behavioral Healthcare; or
- \_\_\_\_\_ (vii) Human Development.

(b) Justice in Society, which include topics below but are not limited to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (i) Ethics;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) Political Science;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (iii) Philosophy;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (iv) Criminal Justice; or
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v) Social Justice.

(c) Cultural Competence, which include topics below but are not limited to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (i) Communications;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) Gender Studies;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (iii) Human Services;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (iv) Ethnic Studies;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v) History of Culture(s); or
- \_\_\_\_\_ (vi) Sociology.

Table 1.

<b><u>Knowledge Areas</u></b>	<b><u>Examples of Course Topics</u></b> Requirements may be met by courses in topic areas including, but not limited to, those listed below.
<u>Human Behavior and Counseling</u>	<u>Counseling, psychology, applied behavior science, social work, social welfare, behavioral healthcare, human development</u>
<u>Justice in Society</u>	<u>Ethics, political science, philosophy, criminal justice, social justice</u>
<u>Cultural Competence</u>	<u>Communications, gender studies, human services, ethnic studies, history of culture(s), sociology</u>

## **246-810-0154**

### **Qualifications to become a licensed agency affiliated counselor. Licensed agency affiliated counselor credentialing requirements.**

- (1) An applicant for a licensed agency affiliated counselor credential must:
- (a) Be employed by, or have a current offer of employment from, an agency or facility identified in WAC **246-810-016**;
  - (b) Have an advanced degree in counseling or the social sciences from an accredited college or university as specified in RCW 18.19.090;
  - (c) Meet the minimum coursework requirements in WAC 246-810-0155; and
  - (d) Have a minimum of 2 years of experience gained in accordance with subsection (2) of this section.
- (2) Supervised experience must:
- (a) be in direct treatment of persons with a mental disorder and gained under the supervision of a mental health professional who is able to independently provide assessments and diagnoses within the scope of practice of their credential;
  - (b) be obtained under a credential to practice counseling; and
  - (c) be obtained after the completion of their degree or through an internship or practicum that is part of the applicant's degree program requirements.
- (3) For applicants whose supervised experience was obtained prior to January 1, 2025, ~~July 23, 2023, the creation of this credential~~ supervision may have been provided by a registered agency affiliated counselor who was designated as a mental health professional.
- (4) For supervised experience obtained in private practice, the supervision must be provided by an individual who meets the definition of a mental health professional as defined in this chapter.
- (5) Supervised experience earned out of state may be considered if:
- (a) the applicant held a credential substantially equivalent to a counselor;
  - (b) in that state;
  - (c) while in good standing; and
  - (d) supervision was provided under a mental health professional as described in section (2)(a).

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## **246-810-0155**

### **Coursework requirements for licensed agency affiliated counselors**

An applicant for the agency affiliated counselor license must

meet one of the following coursework pathways by completing graduate-level classes, for credit, from an approved school:

(1) Completion of an Assessment and Diagnosis course in addition to one of the following courses:

(a) Counseling individuals;

(b) Counseling groups; or

(c) Counseling couples and families; or

(2) Completion of at least 45 of the following courses:

(a) Assessment and diagnosis;

(b) Ethics and law;

(c) Counseling individuals;

(d) Counseling groups;

(e) Counseling couples and families;

(f) Developmental psychology (including child, adolescent, adult, or life span);

(g) Psychopathology or abnormal psychology;

(h) Research and evaluation;

(i) Career development counseling;

(j) Multicultural considerations in counseling;

(k) Substance use disorders;

(l) Physiological psychology;

(m) Organizational psychology;

(n) Mental health consultation;

(o) Developmental disabilities;

(p) Domestic violence; or

(q) Chronic mental illness.

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## **246-810-016**

### **Agencies, facilities, federally recognized Indian tribes located within the state, or counties that can employ agency affiliated counselors.**

Agencies or facilities that may employ an agency affiliated counselor are:

(1) Washington state departments and agencies; ~~listed in the Agency, Commission & Organization Directory available on the state of Washington website;~~

(2) Federally recognized Indian tribes located within the state;

(3) Counties as listed in chapter **36.04** RCW;

(4) Community and technical colleges governed by the Washington state board for community and technical colleges;

(5) Colleges and universities governed by the Washington state higher education coordinating board;

(6) Hospitals licensed under chapter **70.41** RCW;

(7) Home health care agencies, home care agencies, and hospice care agencies licensed under chapter **70.127** RCW;

(8) Agencies and facilities licensed or certified under chapters **71.05** or **71.24** RCW;

(9) Psychiatric hospitals, residential treatment facilities, hospitals, and alcohol and chemical dependency entities licensed under chapter **71.12** RCW;

[\(10\) After January 1, 2028, a federally qualified health center located in Washington state; or](#)

(11) Other agencies or facilities recognized by the secretary as provided in WAC **246-810-017**.

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## **246-810-017**

### **Process to become a recognized agency or facility.**

(1) To become a recognized agency or facility, an agency or facility must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the secretary that it is operated, licensed, or certified by the state of Washington to provide specific counseling services.

(2) When reviewing requests for recognition, the secretary may:

(a) Require [an agency or facility to complete](#) forms and documentation [as provided or required by the secretary; and](#)

(b) Consult with other state agencies and entities.

(3) In determining whether or not to recognize the agency or facility, the secretary may consider multiple criteria, including, but not limited to:

(a) Counseling quality assurance standards and requirements that are applicable to the agency or facility;

(b) Protections for ensuring patient safety in the delivery of supervised counseling services by counselors employed by the agency or facility; and

(c) Mechanisms for receiving and reporting complaints regarding counselors, investigating counselor conduct and practices, and taking corrective and disciplinary actions against counselors.

(4) The department will maintain a list of recognized agencies and facilities that may employ agency affiliated counselors to perform a specific counseling service or services under this section.

(5) Recognized agencies or facilities that cease to be operated, licensed, or certified by the state of Washington will no longer be recognized and will be removed from the list of recognized agencies.

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## 246-810-018

### **Reporting changes in employment or internship. ~~An agency affiliated counselor must report an employment change.~~**

(1) An agency affiliated counselors must notify the department within thirty calendar days if they are no longer employed by the agency identified on their application, are now employed with another agency, or both. An agency affiliated counselors may not practice counseling unless they are employed by, or a student intern working in, an agency.

(2) A ~~S~~student interns practicing as an registered agency affiliated counselors must notify the department within thirty days of the completion of their internship or practicum.

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## 246-810-019

### **Co-occurring disorder enhancement specialist eligibility.**

An agency affiliated counselors ~~licensed under chapter 18.19 RCW and this chapter~~ who meets the conditions of RCW **18.205.105** (1)(e) are eligible to apply for a co-occurring disorder specialist enhancement to their existing credential according to the conditions of RCW **18.205.160** and chapter **246-804** WAC.

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## 246-810-0201

### **Practice scope and limits for certified counselors.**

The scope of practice of a certified counselors ~~is found i~~outlined in RCW 18.19.200 and consists exclusively of the following:

(1) Appropriate screening of the client's level of functional impairment using the global assessment of functioning as described in the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Recognition of a mental or physical disorder or a global assessment of functioning score of sixty or less requires that the certified counselor refer the client for diagnosis and treatment to a licensed health care practitioner unless otherwise permitted below.



(2) If the client has a global assessment of functioning score greater than sixty, a certified counselor may counsel and guide the client in adjusting to life situations, developing new skills, and making desired changes, in accordance with the theories and techniques of a specific counseling method and established practice standards.

(3) If the client has a global assessment of functioning score of sixty or less, a certified counselor may counsel and guide the client in adjusting to life situations, developing new skills, and making desired changes, in accordance with the theories and techniques of a specific counseling method and established practice standards if:

(a) The client has been referred to the certified counselor by a licensed health care practitioner and care is provided as part of a plan of treatment developed by the referring practitioner who is actively treating the client. The certified counselor must adhere to any conditions related to the certified counselor's role as specified in the plan of care; or

(b) The certified counselor referred the client for diagnosis and treatment from a licensed health care practitioner and the client refused, in writing, to seek diagnosis and treatment from the other provider. The certified counselor may provide services to the client consistent with a treatment plan developed by the certified counselor and the consultant or supervisor with whom the certified counselor has a written consultation or supervisory agreement.

(4) A certified counselor must not be the sole treatment provider for a client with a global assessment of functioning score of less than fifty.

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## 246-810-021

### **Practice scope and limits for certified advisers.**

The scope of practice of [a certified advisers is outlined in RCW 18.19.200 and](#) consists exclusively of the following:

(1) Appropriate screening of the client's level of functional impairment using the global assessment of functioning as described in the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Recognition of a mental or physical disorder or a global assessment of functioning score of sixty or less requires that the certified adviser refer the client to a licensed health care practitioner.

(2) If the client has a global assessment of functioning score greater than sixty, a certified adviser may counsel and guide the client in adjusting to life situations, developing new skills, and making desired changes, in accordance with

the theories and techniques of a specific counseling method and established practice standards.

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## 246-810-0221

### Qualifications to become a certified counselor.

~~(1) Until July 1, 2010, an applicant for certified counselor who has been a registered counselor for a minimum of five years must:~~

~~(a) Hold a valid, active registration that is in good standing or be in compliance with any disciplinary process and orders;~~

~~(b) Show evidence of having completed at least six clock hours of course work that included risk assessment, ethics, appropriate screening using the global assessment of functioning scale, client referral, and Washington state law;~~

~~(c) Pass an examination in risk assessment, ethics, appropriate screening using the global assessment of functioning scale, client referral, and Washington state law; and~~

~~(d) Have a written consultation agreement which meets the requirements in WAC with a credential holder who meets the qualifications to be a consultant in WAC.~~

~~(12) Unless eligible for certification under subsection (1)(a) of this section,~~

~~(1) An applicant~~s for a certified counselor credential must:

~~(a1)~~ Have a bachelor's degree in a counseling-related field, as defined in WAC **246-810-024**;

~~(b2)~~ Pass an examination in risk assessment, ethics, and appropriate screening using the global assessment of functioning scale, client referral, and Washington state law; and

~~(c3)~~ Have a written supervisory agreement which meets the requirements in WAC **246-810-025** with a credential holder who meets the qualifications to be a supervisor in WAC **246-810-026**.

(2) An individual who obtained a certified counselor credential prior to July 1, 2010, may practice under a consultation agreement as described in WAC 246-810-025.

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## 246-810-023

### Qualifications to become a certified adviser.

An Aapplicant~~s~~ for a certified adviser credential must:

- (1) Have an associate degree which included a supervised internship in a counseling-related field as defined in WAC **246-810-024**;
- (2) Pass an examination in risk assessment, ethics, and appropriate screening using the global assessment of functioning scale, client referral, and Washington state law; and
- (3) Have a written supervisory agreement which meets the requirements in WAC **246-810-025** with a credential holder who meets the qualifications to be a supervisor in WAC **246-810-026**.

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## **246-810-024**

### **Counseling-related degrees that meet the requirements for certified counselor and certified adviser.**

- (1) An applicant for a certified counselor credential must:
  - (a) Have a counseling-related bachelor's degree from an approved educational program. The degree must have required the equivalent of at least four years of full-time study and at least:
    - (i) One third of the courses must be in subjects listed in subsection (4); or
    - (ii) 42 credits in subjects listed in subsection (4); or
    - (iii) 10 individual courses in subjects listed in subsection (4) of this section.
  - (2) An applicant for a certified adviser credential must have:
    - (a) a counseling-related associate degree must be from an approved educational program. The degree must have the equivalent of at least two years of full-time study, a supervised internship and at least:
      - (i) One fourth of the courses must be in subjects listed in subsection (4); or
      - (ii) 21 credits in subjects listed in subsection (4); or
      - (iii) Five individual courses in subjects listed in subsection (4) of this section.
    - (3) An advanced ~~or graduate~~ degree from an approved educational program ~~recognized educational program or institution~~ in any of the subject areas listed in subsection (4) of this section ~~will~~ meets the education requirements for certified counselor or certified adviser.
    - (4) Counseling-related subjects, include but are not limited to:
      - (a) Addiction counseling;
      - (b) Adolescent and child counseling;

- (c) Anger management counseling;
- (d) Applied behavioral science;
- (e) Behavior management or behavior modification;
- (f) Biofeedback;
- (g) Child development;
- (h) Clinical social work;
- (i) Community mental health;
- (j) Counseling persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities;
- (k) Counseling ethics;
- (l) Developmental psychology;
- (m) Domestic violence counseling;
- (n) Elder counseling;
- (o) Grief counseling;
- (p) Human development;
- (q) Human services counseling;
- (r) Learning disabilities counseling;
- (s) Marriage and family counseling;
- (t) Mental health counseling;
- (u) Ministerial or pastoral counseling;
- (v) Multicultural counseling;
- (w) Organizational psychology;
- (x) Personality theory;
- (y) Physiological psychology;
- (z) Psychiatry and psychiatric nursing;
- (aa) Psychological measurement and research;
- (bb) Psychology;
- (cc) Psychopathology and abnormal psychology;
- (dd) Sexual disorder counseling;
- (ee) Social work;
- (ff) Special education;
- (gg) Stress disorder counseling;
- (hh) Substance ~~and chemical abuse~~ use counseling; and
- (ii) Transpersonal psychology.

~~(5) The secretary may accept other equivalent counseling-related education or training programs in the subjects listed in subsection (4) of this section.~~

## Supervision and consultation requirements for certified counselors and supervision requirements for certified advisers.

(1) Supervision. Certified counselors ~~who are not eligible under~~ ~~ho do not meet the requirements in~~ WAC **246-810-0221**(~~21~~) and certified advisers must meet the following supervision requirements:

(a) Written agreement. ~~The certified counselor or certified adviser must have a~~ ~~A~~ written agreement ~~with~~ ~~is required between~~ a qualified supervisor ~~and the certified counselor or certified adviser.~~ ~~They shall~~ ~~is required and must be~~ review, ~~update,~~ ~~ed~~ and renew ~~ite~~ ~~d~~ at least every two years. The agreement must address:

- (i) The agreement duration;
- (ii) Expectations of both parties;
- (iii) Frequency and modalities of supervision;
- (iv) Recordkeeping;
- (v) Financial arrangements;
- (vi) Client confidentiality; and
- (vii) Potential conflict of interest.

(b) Frequency of supervision.

(i) During the first five years of practice, a minimum of two hours of supervision is required in any calendar month in which the certified counselor or certified adviser has had forty or more client contact hours.

(ii) After five years of practice, a minimum of one hour of supervision is required in any calendar month in which the certified counselor or certified adviser has forty or more client contact hours.

(iii) A minimum of two hours of supervision is required in any calendar quarter, regardless of the years in practice or number of client contact hours.

(iv) Up to half of the required supervision time may be supervision of practice in a group setting.

(c) Recordkeeping. ~~The certified counselor or certified adviser and supervisor must maintain~~ ~~A~~ written record of supervision hours and topics. ~~This written record~~ must be maintained by both the supervisor and the certified counselor or certified adviser.

(2) Consultation. Certified counselors who ~~are eligible to maintain a consultation agreement~~ ~~meet the requirements of~~ ~~under~~ WAC **246-810-0221**(~~21~~), must meet the following consultation requirements:

(a) Written agreement. A ~~certified counselor must have a~~ written agreement ~~with~~ ~~between~~ a consultant who meets the requirements in WAC **246-810-026**. ~~and the certified counselor is required,~~ ~~They~~ ~~and~~ must ~~be~~ review, ~~update,~~ ~~ed~~ and renew ~~ite~~ ~~d~~ at least every two years. The agreement must address:

- (i) The agreement duration;
- (ii) Expectations of both parties;
- (iii) Frequency and modalities of consultation;
- (iv) Recordkeeping;
- (v) Financial arrangements;
- (vi) Client confidentiality; and
- (vii) Potential conflict of interest.

(b) Frequency. When a certified counselor has 40 or more direct client contact hours per calendar quarter, they must complete at least 1 hour of consultation. The certified counselor is responsible for determining the appropriate frequency of additional consultation. ~~The certified counselor will determine the consultation he or she needs. However, a minimum of one hour of consultation is required during any calendar quarter in which the certified counselor has forty or more client contact hours.~~

(c) Recordkeeping. The certified counselor or certified adviser and consultant must maintain Aa written record of the supervision agreement, consultation hours and topics. ~~must be maintained by the consultant and the certified counselor.~~

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## 246-810-026

### **Qualifications to be a certified counselor supervisor, certified adviser supervisor, or a certified counselor consultant.**

(1) The following qualifications are required to be a certified counselor supervisor, certified adviser supervisor, or a certified counselor consultant.

~~(1)(a)~~ (a) The supervisor or ~~certified counselor~~ consultant for a certified counselor must have held a Washington state credential in counseling-related fields for a minimum of five years.

(b) All credentials held by the supervisor or consultant must be in good standing and at least one credential must be active.

(2) For purposes of this section, counseling-related fields ~~means a~~ include the following credentials issued under chapter **18.130** RCW ~~for~~:

- (a) Certified counselor;
- (b) Hypnotherapist;
- (c) Mental health counselor;
- (d) Marriage and family therapist;
- (e) Independent clinical social workerer;
- (f) Advanced social workerer;
- (g) Psychologist;

- (h) Substance use disorder professional;
- (i) Sex offender treatment provider [or affiliate](#);
- ~~(j) Sex offender treatment provider affiliate;~~
- ~~(k) Medical physician [or physician assistant](#);~~
- ~~(l) Osteopathic physician;~~
- ~~(m) [Licensed behavioral analyst](#);~~
- ~~(n) [Psychological associate](#);~~
- ~~(o) Advanced [practice](#) registered nurse ~~practitioner~~; [and](#)~~
- ~~(p) Naturopathic physician; [and](#)~~
- ~~(e) [Until July 1, 2010, registered counselor.](#)~~

Additional credentials may be accepted by the secretary as counseling-related.

(3) The supervisor or consultant may not be a blood or legal relative or cohabitant of the credential holder, or someone who has acted as the credential holder's counselor within the past two years. A supervisor or consultant may not have a reciprocal supervisory or consultant arrangement with another credential holder.

(4) Prior to the commencement of any supervision or consultation, the supervisor or consultant must provide the certified counselor or certified adviser with a declaration on a form provided by the department.

(5) ~~The~~ [A](#) supervisor must have completed education and training in:

(a) Supervision or management of individuals who provide counseling or mental health services;

(b) Risk assessment;

(c) Screening using the global assessment of functioning scale;

(d) Professional ethics; and

(e) Washington state law.

(6) ~~The~~ [A](#) consultant must have completed education and training in:

(a) Risk assessment;

(b) Screening using the global assessment of functioning scale;

(c) Professional ethics; and

(d) Washington state law.

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**246-810-027**

**Continuing education requirements for a certified counselor or certified adviser.**

(1) A certified counselor or a certified adviser must complete 36 credit hours of continuing education [courses](#) every two years.

(2) At least six hours of the 36 credit hours must be in law and professional ethics related to counseling.

(3) At least once every six years a certified counselor or a certified adviser must complete three hours of training in suicide assessment, including screening and referral, as specified in WAC **246-810-0298**.

(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the ~~first~~[initial suicide assessment](#) training must be completed during the first full continuing education reporting period after initial licensure.

(b) An individual applying for initial certification as a certified counselor or a certified adviser may delay completion of the first required training for six years after initial certification if they can demonstrate successful completion of a three-hour training in suicide assessment, screening, and referral that:

(i) Was completed no more than six years prior to the application for initial certification; and

(ii) Meets the requirements listed in WAC **246-810-0298**.

(c) The hours spent completing training in suicide assessment count towards the total 36 hours of continuing education.

(4) Beginning January 1, 2024, at least once every four years, a certified counselor or certified adviser must complete two hours of health equity training as specified in WAC **246-810-0299**.

(5) Nothing in this section is intended to expand or limit the existing scope of practice of a certified counselor or a certified adviser as defined by WAC **246-810-0201** and **246-810-021**.

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## **246-810-029**

### **Acceptable continuing education courses for certified counselor and certified adviser.**

(1) [Continuing education courses](#) ~~A continuing education program or course~~ must:

(a) be [directly related](#) ~~relevant~~ to counseling; and

(b) must contribute to the advancement, extension, and enhancement of the professional competence of the credential holder.

(2) Relevant courses include those that are related to counseling theory and practice, modality(ies) of the counseling services the credential holder will provide, professional ethics, courses related to risk assessment, screening using the global



assessment of functioning scale, referral of clients, and Washington state law applicable to counseling.

(23) Acceptable continuing education courses (including distance learning), seminars, workshops, training programs, and institutes are those which must have a featured instructor, speaker(s), or panel approved by an industry-recognized accredited institution of higher learning, or an industry-recognized local, state, national, or international organization.

(34) Distance learning programs approved by an industry-recognized local, state, national or international organization or accredited educational organization may meet these requirements. The programs must require a test of comprehension upon completion. Distance learning programs are limited to twenty hours per reporting period.

(54) Other learning experiences, such as serving on a panel, board, or council, community service, research, peer consultation, or publishing articles for professional publications are acceptable if the experience contributes to the advancement, extension, and enhancement of the professional competence of the certified counselor or certified adviser. The "learning experience" category experience is limited to six hours per reporting period.

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## 246-810-0293

**Recognized Accredited institutions of higher learning and local, state, national, and international organizations approved for continuing education.**

Activities that meet the requirements of WAC **246-810-029** and are eligible for continuing education must be provided by institutions of higher learning and local, state, national, and international organizations. These organizations include but are not limited to offered by the following entities are eligible for continuing education credit:

- (1) American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;
- (2) American Counseling Association;
- (32) American Mental Health Counselors Association;
- (4) American Psychological Association;
- (54) Association for Humanistic Psychology;
- (65) Association for Integrative Psychology;
- (7) Association of Social Work Boards;
- (8) Clinical Social Work Association;

(9) Institutions of higher learning that are accredited by a national or regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation;

(10) National Association of Social Workers;

(11) National Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors;

(12) National Board for Certified Counselors;

(13) Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care;

(14) State Association and National Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers;

(15) Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration;

(16) Washington Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;

(17) Washington Chapter of the National Association of Social Work;

(18) Washington Mental Health Counselors Association;

(19) Washington Professional Counselors Alliance;

(20) Washington State Society for Clinical Social Work; and

~~(1) Washington Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;~~

~~(2) Washington State Society for Clinical Social Work;~~

~~(3) Washington Chapter of the National Association of Social Work;~~

~~(4) American Mental Health Counselors Association;~~

~~(5) American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;~~

~~(6) Clinical Social Work Association;~~

~~(7) National Association of Social Workers;~~

~~(8) Washington Mental Health Counselors Association;~~

~~(9) National Board for Certified Counselors;~~

~~(10) Association for Humanistic Psychology;~~

~~(11) The Association for Integrative Psychology;~~

~~(12) Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care;~~

~~(13) Institutions of higher learning that are accredited by a national or regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation;~~

~~(14) Washington Professional Counselors Association;~~

~~(15) State Association and National Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers;~~

~~(16) National Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors; and~~

~~(217) Other organizations recognized by the secretary and included on a list maintained by the department.~~

## **Continuing education credit for preparing and presenting a lecture or course.**

- (1) A certified counselor or certified adviser who prepares and presents lectures or education that contributes to the professional competence of other counselors or mental health providers may accumulate the same number of [continuing education](#) hours obtained ~~for continuing education purposes~~ by attendees.
- (1)(2) The hours for presenting a lecture or education on a specific topic may only be used for continuing education credit once during each reporting period.

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### **246-810-0297**

## **Continuing education documentation for certified counselor or certified adviser.**

- (1) Acceptable continuing education documentation for certified counselor or certified adviser includes transcripts, signed letters from course instructors, certificate of completion, or other formal certification, as required in chapter [246-12 WAC, Part 7](#).
- (2) The credential holder must provide documentation ~~which demonstrates fulfillment~~ of [completing](#) continuing education requirements if requested by the secretary.

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### **246-810-0298**

## **Suicide assessment training standards.**

- (1) Approved qualifying training in suicide assessment, including screening and referral, must be on the department's model list developed in accordance with RCW [43.70.442](#).
- (2) A certified counselor or certified adviser who is an employee of a state or local government employer is exempt from the requirements of this section if they receive a total of at least three hours of training in suicide assessment including screening and referral from their employer every six years.
- (3) A certified counselor or certified adviser who is an employee of a licensed or certified behavioral health agency under chapter [71.05](#) or [71.24](#) RCW is exempt from the requirements of this section if they receive a total of at least three hours

of training in suicide assessment, including screening and referral from their employer every six years.

(4) For purposes of this section, the training may be provided in one three-hour block or shorter training sessions.

(5) A certified counselor or certified adviser that obtained training under the exemptions listed in subsections (2) and (3) of this section may obtain continuing education credit subject to documentation as defined in WAC **246-810-0297**.

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## **246-810-0299**

### **Health equity training standards.**

(1) ~~Beginning January 1, 2024, A~~ certified counselor or certified adviser must complete training in health equity as a part of their continuing education requirements. The certified counselor or certified adviser must complete at least two hours of health equity trainings every four years. The training may be in person or virtual but must meet the course requirements in WAC **246-12-830**, including strategies to reduce implicit bias and assess the providers ability to apply health equity concepts into practice.

(2) The hours spent completing training in health equity education count towards the total of 36 hours of continuing education.

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## **246-810-031**

### **Disclosure statement to be provided to clients by certified counselors and certified advisers.**

(1) Certified counselors and certified advisers must provide a disclosure statement to each client prior to starting a program of treatment.

(2) The following must appear in the disclosure statement:

(a) The name of the certified counselor or certified adviser and the name of their firm, agency, or business, if any.

(b) The certified counselor's or certified adviser's business address and telephone number.

(c) The certified counselor's or certified adviser's Washington state credential number.

(d) The certified counselor's or certified adviser's education, training, and experience.

(e) The name and description of the types of counseling provided by the certified counselor or certified adviser, including the therapeutic orientation, methods, and techniques employed in their practice, and a list of resources relevant to the therapeutic orientation.

(f) The type and duration of counseling expected, if known at the time of providing the disclosure information.

(g) Fee information, including:

(i) The cost for each counseling session;

(ii) Billing practices, including any advance payments and refunds;

(iii) A statement that clients are not liable for any fees or charges for services rendered prior to receipt of the disclosure statement.

(h) The limits of confidentiality under RCW **18.19.180**.

(i) Disclosure of the certified counselor's or certified adviser's supervisory or consultation agreement as defined in WAC **246-810-025**.

(j) Disclosure that the certified counselor or certified adviser is not credentialed to diagnose mental disorders or to conduct psychotherapy as defined in WAC **246-810-010(16-14)**.

(k) All of the following:

(i) ~~Certified c~~Counselors ~~or certified advisers~~ practicing counseling for a fee must be credentialed with the ~~D~~epartment of ~~H~~hhealth for the protection of the public health and safety.

(ii) Credentialing of an individual with the ~~D~~epartment of ~~H~~hhealth does not include a recognition of any practice standards, nor necessarily imply the effectiveness of any treatment.

(iii) The purpose of ~~the Counselor Credentialing Act~~, chapter **18.19** RCW, is to:

(A) Provide protection for public health and safety; and

(B) Empower the citizens of the state of Washington by providing a complaint process against those certified counselors or certified advisers who would commit acts of unprofessional conduct.

(iv) Clients have the right to choose the certified counselors or certified adviser who best suit their needs and purposes.

(l) A copy of the acts of unprofessional conduct in RCW **18.130.180** and the name, address, and contact telephone number within the ~~department~~Department of ~~health~~Health for complaints.

(m) Signature and date blocks for the client, and the certified counselor or certified adviser, including an attestation that the client agrees that the required disclosure statement has been provided and that the client has read and understands the information.

[\(n\) Any changes to the disclosure statement form or information requires all current clients to sign the updated form.](#)

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## **246-810-032**

### **Failure to provide client disclosure information.**

Failure to provide to the client any of the disclosure information as set forth in WAC ~~246-810-030~~ and ~~246-810-031~~, and as required by the law shall constitute an act of unprofessional conduct as defined in RCW **18.130.180**(7).

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## **246-810-035**

### **Record requirements.**

(1) A [certified](#) counselor [or certified adviser](#) providing professional services to a client or providing services billed to a third-party payee, must document services, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The documentation must include:

- (a) Client name;
- (b) The fee arrangement and record of payments;
- (c) Dates counseling was received;
- (d) Disclosure form, signed by [the certified](#) counselor [or certified adviser](#) and client;
- (e) The presenting problem(s), or purpose of counseling;
- (f) Notation and results of formal consults, including information obtained from other persons or agencies through a release of information;
- (g) Progress notes sufficient to support responsible clinical practice for the type of theoretical orientation/therapy the [certified](#) counselor [or certified adviser](#) uses.

(2) If a client requests that no treatment records be kept, and the [certified](#) counselor [or certified adviser](#) agrees to the request, the request must be in writing and only the following must be retained:

- (a) Client name;
- (b) Fee arrangement and record of payments;
- (c) Dates counseling was received;
- (d) Disclosure form, signed by [the certified](#) counselor [or certified adviser](#) and client;
- (e) Written request that no records be kept.

(3) The [certified](#) counselor [or certified adviser](#) may not agree to the request if maintaining records is required by other state or federal law.

~~(4) All records must be secured, with properly limited access. Within this five-year period, all records must be secured, with properly limited access.~~

~~(5) All records must be kept for a period of [six](#)five years following the last visit. [For minor clients, records must be retained for six years after the date they turned eighteen years old.](#)~~

~~(6) Special provisions must be made for the retention or transferal of active or inactive records and for continuity of services in the event of a [certified](#) counselor [or certified adviser's](#) death, incapacitation, or cessation of practice. Such special provisions may be made by having another [certified](#) counselor [or certified adviser](#) review records with a client and recommend a course of action; or other appropriate means as determined by the [certified](#) counselor [or certified adviser](#).~~

~~(7) After the [six](#)five-year retention period, the [certified](#) counselor [or certified adviser](#) may dispose of the record. Disposal must be done in a secure and confidential manner that includes:~~

- ~~(a) Shredding;~~
- ~~(b) Deleting, erasing, or reformatting electronic media; and~~
- ~~(c) Other readable forms of media that are defaced or rendered unusable or unreadable.~~

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## **246-810-040**

### **Requirements to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult.**

~~(1) Chapter **26.44** RCW requires that all counselors must report suspected abuse or neglect of a child, when they have reasonable cause to believe that such an incident has occurred.~~

~~(2) Chapter **74.34** RCW requires that all counselors report when there is reasonable cause to believe that abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult has occurred.~~

~~(3) The report must be made to the local law enforcement agency or to the department of social and health services within twenty-four hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child or vulnerable adult has suffered abuse or neglect.~~

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## 246-810-045

### Requirements for client fees paid in advance.

(1) The practice of collecting fees in advance and refund policies must be included in the disclosure statement to the client before any funds are collected.

(2) [A certified counselor or certified adviser](#) who collects fees in advance of the service provided must separate such funds from operating/expense funds. ~~Failure to properly account for such funds may be a violation of the Securities Act, RCW 21.20.005.~~ The [certified counselor or certified adviser](#) may not spend the funds until the service is provided. Any funds left in the account, for services not provided must be returned to the client within thirty days of the request.

(3) Room rental fees or similar expenses, for example, as relating to group therapy, are not considered fees paid in advance.

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## 246-810-049

### Sexual misconduct regulations.

~~(1) The definitions and prohibitions on sexual misconduct in chapter 246-16 WAC apply to counselors except WAC 246-16-100 (3) and (4).~~

~~(2) A counselor shall never engage, or attempt to engage, in the activities listed in WAC 246-16-100(1) with a former patient, former client or former key party.~~

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## 246-810-060

### Mandatory reporting.

~~Individuals and other entities must report unprofessional conduct in compliance with the Uniform Disciplinary Act in chapter 18.130 RCW and the standards of professional conduct in chapter 246-16 WAC. All individuals credentialed under this chapter are subject to the mandatory reporting requirements of chapter 246-16 WAC.~~

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## 246-810-061

### Health care institutions.

~~The chief administrator or executive officer or their designee of any hospital, nursing home, licensed or certified behavioral health agency as defined in~~



~~RCW 71.24.025, and residential treatment facility licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW, shall report to the department when any counselor's services are terminated or are restricted based upon a determination that the counselor has committed an act which may constitute unprofessional conduct or that the counselor may be unable to practice with reasonable skill or safety to clients by reason of a mental or physical condition. Reports are to be made in accordance with WAC 246-810-060.~~

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## **246-810-062**

### **~~Counselor associations or societies.~~**

~~The president or chief executive officer of any counselor association or society within this state shall report to the department when the association or society determines that a registered counselor has committed unprofessional conduct or that a counselor may not be able to practice counseling with reasonable skill and safety to clients as the result of any mental or physical condition. The report required by must be made regardless of whether the counselor appeals, accepts, or acts upon the association or society's determination. The report must include notification of appeal. Reports must meet the requirements of WAC 246-810-060.~~

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## **246-810-063**

### **~~Health care service contractors and disability insurance carriers.~~**

~~The executive officer of every health care service contractor and disability insurer, licensed under chapters 48.20, 48.21, 48.21A, and 48.44 RCW, operating in the state of Washington shall report to the department all final determinations that a counselor has engaged in fraud in billing for services. Reports are to be made in accordance with WAC 246-810-060.~~

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## **246-810-064**

### **~~Professional liability carriers.~~**

~~Every institution or organization providing professional liability insurance directly or indirectly to counselors shall send a complete report to the department of any malpractice settlement, award, or payment in excess of twenty thousand~~

dollars as a result of a claim or action for damages alleged to have been caused by an insured counselor's incompetency or negligence in the practice of counseling. Such institution or organization shall also report the award, settlement, or payment of three or more claims during a twelve-month period as a result of the counselor's alleged incompetence or negligence in the practice of counseling. Reports are to be made in accordance with WAC ~~246-810-060~~.

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### **246-810-065**

#### **Courts.**

The department requests the assistance of the clerk of trial courts within the state to report all professional malpractice judgments and all convictions of counselors, other than minor traffic violations.

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### **246-810-066**

#### **State and federal agencies.**

The department requests the assistance of executive officers of any state or federal program operating in the state of Washington, under which a counselor is employed to provide client care services, to report to the department whenever such a counselor has been judged to have demonstrated his/her incompetency or negligence in the practice of counseling, or has otherwise committed unprofessional conduct, or may not be able to practice with reasonable skill and safety by reason of any mental or physical condition. These requirements do not supersede any federal or state law.

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### **246-810-089**

#### **Transitional dates for a registered counselor credential.**

(1) The department of health will not issue any new registered counselor credentials after July 1, 2009.

(2) Individuals with a current or prior credential as a registered counselor may renew or reinstate their credential if all fees are paid and credentialing requirements are met. No registered counselor credentials will be renewed or reinstated after June 30, 2010.

~~(3) To continue to practice counseling, all registered counselors must hold a different counseling credential by July 1, 2010.~~

~~(4) All registered counselor credentials are abolished on July 1, 2010.~~

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## **246-810-090**

### **Application process for hypnotherapists.**

An applicant for a hypnotherapist credential shall submit to the department:

- (1) An application on forms provided by the department under RCW 18.19.090;
- (2) Applicable fee(s) required under WAC 246-810-990; and
- (3) Any additional supporting documentation requested by the department.

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## **246-810-990**

### **Counselors fees and renewal cycle.**

~~(1) Credentials in this chapter must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided by chapter 246-12 WAC. Under chapter 246-12 WAC, a counselor must renew their credential every year on the practitioner's birthday.~~

(2) Examination and reexamination fees are the responsibility of the applicant ~~and are paid directly to the testing company.~~

(3) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b>Registered hypnotherapist:</b>	
Application and registration	\$155.00
Renewal	\$80.00
Late renewal penalty	\$75.00
Expired registration reissuance	\$75.00
Duplicate registration	\$10.00
Verification of registration	\$25.00
<b>Certified counselor:</b>	
Application and certification	\$680.00
Examination or reexamination	\$85.00
Renewal	\$800.00
Late renewal penalty	\$300.00
Expired credential reissuance	\$100.00
Duplicate credential	\$10.00
Verification of credential	\$25.00
<b>Certified adviser:</b>	
Application and certification	\$620.00
Examination or reexamination	\$85.00
Renewal	\$745.00
Late renewal penalty	\$300.00

Expired credential reissuance	\$100.00
Duplicate credential	\$10.00
Verification of credential	\$25.00

**Registered Agency affiliated counselor:**

Application and <del>credentialing</del> registration	\$175.00
Renewal	\$185.00
Late renewal penalty	\$95.00
Expired <del>credential</del> registration reissuance	\$50.00
Duplicate <del>credential</del> registration	\$10.00
Verification of <del>credential</del> registration	\$25.00

Certified agency affiliated counselor

<u>Application and credentialing</u>	\$
<u>Renewal</u>	\$
<u>Late renewal penalty</u>	\$
<u>Expired credential reissuance</u>	\$
<u>Duplicate credential</u>	\$
<u>Verification of credential</u>	\$

Licensed agency affiliated counselor

<u>Application and credentialing</u>	
<u>Renewal</u>	
<u>Late renewal penalty</u>	
<u>Expired credential reissuance</u>	
<u>Duplicate credential</u>	
<u>Verification of credential</u>	

