



January 17, 2025

SENATE BILL No. 216

DIGEST OF SB 216 (Updated January 15, 2025 10:03 am - DI 140)

Citations Affected: IC 25-23.6.

Synopsis: Mental health professionals. Makes the following changes in regard to marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, addiction counselors, and clinical addiction counselors: (1) Provides that an individual must be licensed as an associate before obtaining the relevant experience hours, except in certain circumstances. (2) Clarifies the effect on experience hours of the expiration of a temporary license or permit. Removes certain provisions regarding first available examinations.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

Crider, Becker

January 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.
January 16, 2025, reported favorably — Do Pass.

SB 216—LS 6641/DI 153



January 17, 2025

First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 216

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 25-23.6-8-1.7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.83-2024,
2 SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1.7. An individual who receives a master's degree
4 and enters a doctoral program may do either of the following:
5 (1) Apply for a marriage and family therapist associate license
6 under section 1.5 of this chapter by meeting the requirements of
7 this chapter.
8 (2) Elect not to apply for a marriage and family therapist associate
9 license under section 1.5 of this chapter, accrue the clinical
10 experience required under section ~~2.7(c)~~ **2.7(b)** of this chapter,
11 and apply for a marriage and family therapist license at the
12 conclusion of the doctoral program.
13 SECTION 2. IC 25-23.6-8-2.7, AS AMENDED BY THE
14 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2025 GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
16 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2.7. (a) For purposes of this section, "virtual
17 supervision" means supervision of an applicant for a license as a

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1 marriage and family therapist by a qualified supervisor through an
 2 electronic platform that provides for synchronous visual and audio
 3 interaction in real time, and which is compliant with the federal Health
 4 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Virtual
 5 supervision does not include telephone calls, electronic mail, or text
 6 messages.

7 (b) As used in this section, "first available examination" means the
 8 first examination:

9 (1) after the date of an individual's:

10 (A) graduation; or

11 (B) moving into Indiana;

12 that has an application deadline that is at least thirty (30) days
 13 after the date of graduation or the date of moving into Indiana;
 14 unless the individual chooses to meet a deadline that is less than
 15 thirty (30) days after either of those events; or

16 (2) during the individual's last academic semester, trimester, or
 17 quarter, if the individual is eligible to take the exam pursuant to
 18 section 3 of this chapter.

19 (c) (b) An applicant for a license as a marriage and family therapist
 20 under section 1 of this chapter must have at least two (2) years of
 21 postdegree clinical experience, during which at least fifty percent
 22 (50%) of the applicant's clients were receiving marriage and family
 23 therapy services. The applicant's clinical experience must include one
 24 thousand (1,000) hours of postdegree clinical experience and two
 25 hundred (200) hours of postdegree clinical supervision, of which one
 26 hundred (100) hours must be individual supervision, under the
 27 supervision of a licensed marriage and family therapist who has at least
 28 five (5) years of experience or an equivalent supervisor, as determined
 29 by the board.

30 (c) Except as provided in section 1.7 of this chapter, if an
 31 individual is obtaining the postdegree clinical experience described
 32 in subsection (b) in Indiana, the individual must be licensed as a
 33 marriage and family therapist associate under section 1.5 of this
 34 chapter.

35 (d) If an individual applies for, takes, and passes the first available
 36 examination, the individual may not count more than five hundred
 37 (500) hours of the postdegree clinical experience that is:

38 (1) required under subsection (c); and

39 (2) accumulated before taking the examination toward licensure
 40 as a marriage and family therapist.

41 (e) If an individual does not pass the first available examination, the
 42 individual may:



- 1 (1) retain the hours accumulated before taking the examination;
 2 (2) continue working; and
 3 (3) not accumulate any additional hours toward licensure as a
 4 marriage and family therapist until passing the examination.
 5 (f) If an individual does not take the first available examination, the
 6 individual may not begin accumulating any postdegree clinical
 7 experience hours toward licensure as a marriage and family therapist
 8 until the individual passes the examination.
 9 (g) (d) When obtaining the clinical experience required under
 10 subsection (e), (b), the applicant must provide direct individual, group,
 11 and family therapy and counseling to the following categories of cases:
 12 (1) Unmarried romantic relationships and relational systems.
 13 (2) Married couples.
 14 (3) Separating or divorcing couples.
 15 (4) Family systems and groupings, including children and minors.
 16 (h) (e) A doctoral internship may be applied toward the supervised
 17 work experience requirement.
 18 (i) (f) Except as provided in subsection (j), (g), the experience
 19 requirement may be met by work performed at or away from the
 20 premises of the supervising marriage and family therapist.
 21 (j) (g) Except as provided in subsection (k), (h), the work
 22 requirement may not be performed away from the supervising marriage
 23 and family therapist's premises if:
 24 (1) the work is the independent private practice of marriage and
 25 family therapy; and
 26 (2) the work is not performed at a place that has the supervision
 27 of a licensed marriage and family therapist or an equivalent
 28 supervisor, as determined by the board.
 29 (k) (h) Up to one hundred percent (100%) of the supervised
 30 postdegree clinical experience hours required under subsection (e) (b)
 31 may be accounted for through virtual supervision by a licensed
 32 marriage and family therapist or equivalent supervisor described in
 33 subsection (e) (b).
 34 (i) **Any supervised postdegree clinical experience hours that an**
 35 **applicant accumulates under this chapter after being licensed as a**
 36 **marriage and family therapist associate under section 1.5 of this**
 37 **chapter do not expire and may be used by the applicant to satisfy**
 38 **the supervised postdegree clinical experience requirements under**
 39 **this chapter.**
 40 (j) **After obtaining a temporary permit under section 1.5 of this**
 41 **chapter, any supervised postdegree clinical experience hours that**
 42 **an applicant accumulates under this chapter before the temporary**



1 **permit expires may be used by the applicant to satisfy the**
 2 **supervised postdegree experience requirements under this chapter.**

3 SECTION 3. IC 25-23.6-8.5-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.83-2024,
 4 SECTION 20, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 5 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 4. (a) For purposes of this section, "virtual
 6 supervision" means supervision of an applicant for a license as a
 7 mental health counselor by a qualified supervisor through an electronic
 8 platform that provides for synchronous visual and audio interaction in
 9 real time, and which is compliant with the federal Health Insurance
 10 Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Virtual supervision does
 11 not include telephone calls, electronic mail, or text messages.

12 (b) As used in this section, "first available examination" means the
 13 first examination:

14 (1) after the date of an individual's:

15 (A) graduation; or

16 (B) moving into Indiana;

17 that has an application deadline that is at least thirty (30) days
 18 after the date of graduation or the date of moving into Indiana;
 19 unless the individual chooses to meet a deadline that is less than
 20 thirty (30) days after either of those events; or

21 (2) during the individual's last academic semester, trimester, or
 22 quarter, if the individual is eligible to take the exam pursuant to
 23 section 5 of this chapter.

24 (c) (b) **The An applicant for a license as a mental health**
 25 **counselor under section 1 of this chapter** must have at least three
 26 thousand (3,000) hours of post-graduate clinical experience over a two
 27 (2) year period. The clinical experience must consist of one hundred
 28 (100) hours of supervision under the supervision of a licensed mental
 29 health counselor or an equivalent supervisor, as determined by the
 30 board.

31 (c) **Except as provided in section 1.7 of this chapter, if an**
 32 **individual is obtaining the post-graduate clinical experience**
 33 **described in subsection (b) in Indiana, the individual must be**
 34 **licensed as a mental health counselor associate under section 1.5 of**
 35 **this chapter.**

36 (d) A doctoral internship may be applied toward the supervised
 37 work experience requirement.

38 (e) Except as provided in subsection (f), the clinical experience
 39 requirement may be met by work performed at or away from the
 40 premises of the supervising mental health counselor.

41 (f) Except as provided in subsection (j); (g), the clinical work
 42 requirement may not be performed away from the supervising mental



- 1 health counselor's premises if:
- 2 (1) the work is the independent private practice of mental health
- 3 counseling; and
- 4 (2) the work is not performed at a place that has the supervision
- 5 of a licensed mental health counselor or an equivalent supervisor,
- 6 as determined by the board.
- 7 ~~(g) If an individual applies for, takes, and passes the first available~~
- 8 ~~examination, the individual may not count more than one thousand five~~
- 9 ~~hundred (1,500) hours of the postdegree clinical experience that is-~~
- 10 ~~(1) required under subsection (c); and~~
- 11 ~~(2) accumulated before taking the examination toward licensure~~
- 12 ~~as a mental health counselor.~~
- 13 ~~(h) If an individual does not pass the first available examination, the~~
- 14 ~~individual may:~~
- 15 ~~(1) retain the hours accumulated before taking the examination;~~
- 16 ~~(2) continue working; and~~
- 17 ~~(3) not accumulate any additional hours toward licensure as a~~
- 18 ~~mental health counselor until passing the examination.~~
- 19 ~~(i) If an individual does not take the first available examination, the~~
- 20 ~~individual may not begin accumulating any postdegree clinical~~
- 21 ~~experience hours toward licensure as a mental health counselor until~~
- 22 ~~the individual passes the examination.~~
- 23 ~~(j) (g) Up to one hundred percent (100%) of the supervised~~
- 24 ~~post-graduate clinical experience hours required under subsection (c)~~
- 25 ~~(b) may be accounted for through virtual supervision by a licensed~~
- 26 ~~mental health counselor or equivalent supervisor described in~~
- 27 ~~subsection (c): (b).~~
- 28 **(h) Any supervised post-graduate clinical experience hours that**
- 29 **an applicant accumulates under this chapter after being licensed**
- 30 **as a mental health counselor associate under section 1.5 of this**
- 31 **chapter do not expire and may be used by the applicant to satisfy**
- 32 **the supervised post-graduate clinical experience requirements of**
- 33 **this chapter.**
- 34 **(i) After obtaining a temporary permit under section 1.5 of this**
- 35 **chapter, any supervised post-graduate clinical experience hours**
- 36 **that an applicant accumulates under this chapter before the**
- 37 **temporary permit expires may be used by the applicant to satisfy**
- 38 **the supervised post-graduate clinical experience requirements**
- 39 **under this chapter.**
- 40 SECTION 4. IC 25-23.6-10.5-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.83-2024,
- 41 SECTION 22, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 42 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 7. (a) For purposes of this section, "virtual



1 supervision" means supervision of an applicant for a license as an
 2 addiction counselor by a qualified supervisor through an electronic
 3 platform that provides for synchronous visual and audio interaction in
 4 real time, and which is compliant with the federal Health Insurance
 5 Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Virtual supervision does
 6 not include telephone calls, electronic mail, or text messages.

7 (b) An applicant under section 1 of this chapter must have at least
 8 two (2) years of addiction counseling experience that must include at
 9 least one hundred fifty (150) hours under supervision, one hundred
 10 (100) hours of which must be under individual supervision and fifty
 11 (50) hours of which must be under group supervision. The supervision
 12 required must be provided by a qualified supervisor, as determined by
 13 the board.

14 **(c) If an individual is obtaining the supervised addiction**
 15 **counseling experience described in subsection (b) in Indiana, the**
 16 **individual must be licensed as an addiction counselor associate**
 17 **under section 1.5 of this chapter.**

18 ~~(d)~~ **(d)** A doctoral internship, or a supervised master's level
 19 practicum, an internship, or field experience in addiction counseling,
 20 may be applied toward the supervised work experience requirement.

21 ~~(e)~~ **(e)** Except as provided in subsection ~~(e)~~, **(f)**, the experience
 22 requirement may be met by work performed at or away from the
 23 premises of the qualified supervisor.

24 ~~(f)~~ **(f)** Except as provided in subsection ~~(f)~~, **(g)**, the work
 25 requirement may not be performed away from the qualified supervisor's
 26 premises if:

27 (1) the work is the independent private practice of addiction
 28 counseling; and

29 (2) the work is not performed at a place that has the supervision
 30 of a qualified supervisor.

31 ~~(g)~~ **(g)** Up to one hundred percent (100%) of the supervised
 32 addiction counseling experience hours required under subsection (b)
 33 may be accounted for through virtual supervision by a qualified
 34 supervisor described in subsection (b).

35 **(h) Any supervised addiction counseling experience hours that**
 36 **an applicant accumulates under this chapter after being licensed**
 37 **as an addiction counselor associate under section 1.5 of this**
 38 **chapter do not expire and may be used by the applicant to satisfy**
 39 **the supervised addiction counseling experience requirements under**
 40 **this chapter.**

41 **(i) After obtaining a temporary permit under section 1.5 of this**
 42 **chapter, any supervised addiction counseling experience hours that**



1 **an applicant accumulates under this chapter before the temporary**
 2 **permit expires may be used by the applicant to satisfy the**
 3 **supervised addiction counseling experience requirements under**
 4 **this chapter.**

5 SECTION 5. IC 25-23.6-10.5-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.83-2024,
 6 SECTION 23, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 7 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 8. (a) For purposes of this section, "virtual
 8 supervision" means supervision of an applicant for a license as a
 9 clinical addiction counselor by a qualified supervisor through an
 10 electronic platform that provides for synchronous visual and audio
 11 interaction in real time, and which is compliant with the federal Health
 12 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Virtual
 13 supervision does not include telephone calls, electronic mail, or text
 14 messages.

15 (b) An applicant under section 2 of this chapter must have at least
 16 two (2) years of clinical addiction counseling experience that must
 17 include at least two hundred (200) hours under supervision, one
 18 hundred (100) hours of which must be under individual supervision
 19 and up to one hundred (100) hours of which may be under group
 20 supervision. The supervision required must be provided by a qualified
 21 supervisor, as determined by the board.

22 **(c) If an individual is obtaining the clinical addiction counseling**
 23 **experience described in subsection (b) in Indiana, the individual**
 24 **must be licensed as a clinical addiction counselor associate under**
 25 **section 2.5 of this chapter.**

26 ~~(e)~~ (d) A doctoral internship may be applied toward the supervised
 27 work experience requirement.

28 ~~(e)~~ (e) Except as provided in subsection ~~(e)~~; (f), the experience
 29 requirement may be met by work performed at or away from the
 30 premises of the qualified supervisor.

31 ~~(e)~~ (f) Except as provided in subsection (g), the work requirement
 32 may not be performed away from the qualified supervisor's premises if:

33 (1) the work is the independent private practice of addiction
 34 therapy; and

35 (2) the work is not performed at a place that has the supervision
 36 of a qualified supervisor.

37 ~~(f)~~ (g) Up to one hundred percent (100%) of the supervised clinical
 38 addiction counseling experience hours required under subsection (b)
 39 may be accounted for through virtual supervision by a qualified
 40 supervisor described in subsection (b).

41 **(h) Any supervised clinical addiction counseling experience**
 42 **hours that an applicant accumulates under this chapter after being**



1 licensed as a clinical addiction counselor associate under section 2.5
2 of this chapter do not expire and may be used by the applicant to
3 satisfy the supervised clinical addiction counseling experience
4 requirements under this chapter.
5 (i) After obtaining a temporary permit under section 1.5 of this
6 chapter, any supervised clinical addiction counseling experience
7 hours that an applicant accumulates under this chapter before the
8 temporary permit expires may be used by the applicant to satisfy
9 the supervised clinical addiction counseling experience
10 requirements under this chapter.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 216, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

(Reference is to SB 216 as introduced.)

CHARBONNEAU, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0

