

## CHAPTER 457

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING,  
AND SOCIAL WORKSUBCHAPTER I  
REGULATION OF MARRIAGE AND  
FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL  
COUNSELING, AND SOCIAL WORK

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**Cross-reference:** See definitions in s. 440.01.

**Cross-reference:** See also [MPSW](#), Wis. adm. code.

## SUBCHAPTER I

REGULATION OF MARRIAGE AND  
FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL  
COUNSELING, AND SOCIAL WORK

**457.01 Definitions.** In this subchapter:

**(1c)** “Advanced practice social worker” means an individual who holds an advanced practice social worker certificate granted by the social worker section.

**(1g)** “Certificate holder” means an individual who is certified under this subchapter.

**(1n)** “Clinical social work” means providing services without supervision for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental and emotional disorders in individuals, families, and groups, to restore, maintain, and enhance social functioning through treatment interventions that include psychosocial evaluation, counseling of individuals, families, or groups, referral to community resources, advocacy, facilitation of organizational change to meet social needs, and individual, marital, or group psychotherapy.

**(1r)** “Clinical social worker” means an individual who holds a license to practice clinical social work granted by the social worker section.

**(1t)** “Counseling compact” means the counseling compact under s. 457.50.

**(1w)** “Credential” means a license, certificate, or privilege to practice granted under this subchapter.

**(2)** “Examining board” means the marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, and social work examining board.

**(2g)** “Independent social worker” means an individual who holds an independent social worker certificate granted by the social worker section.

**(2r)** “Licensee” means a person who is licensed under this subchapter.

**(3)** “Marriage and family therapist” means an individual who holds a license to practice marriage and family therapy granted by the marriage and family therapist section.

**(4)** “Marriage and family therapist section” means the marriage and family therapist section of the examining board.

**(5)** “Marriage and family therapy” means applying psychotherapeutic and marital or family systems theories and techniques

in the assessment, marital or family diagnosis, prevention, treatment or resolution of a cognitive, affective, behavioral, nervous or mental disorder of an individual, couple or family.

**(5m)** “Privilege to practice” has the meaning given in s. 457.50 (2) (s).

**(6)** “Professional counseling” means applying a combination of human development, rehabilitation and either psychosocial or psychotherapeutic principles, procedures or services that integrate a wellness, pathology and multicultural model of human behavior in order to assist an individual, couple, family, group of individuals, organization, institution or community to achieve mental, emotional, physical, social, moral, educational, spiritual, vocational or career development and adjustment through the life span of the individual, couple, family, group of individuals, organization, institution or community.

**(7)** “Professional counselor” means an individual who holds a license to practice professional counseling granted by the professional counselor section or who holds a valid professional counselor privilege to practice in this state.

**(8)** “Professional counselor section” means the professional counselor section of the examining board.

**(8e)** “Psychiatrist” means a physician licensed under subch. II of ch. 448 who specializes in psychiatry.

**(8m)** “Psychotherapy” means the diagnosis and treatment of mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders, conditions, or addictions through the application of methods derived from established psychological or systemic principles for the purpose of assisting people in modifying their behaviors, cognitions, emotions, and other personal characteristics, which may include the purpose of understanding unconscious processes or intrapersonal, interpersonal, or psychosocial dynamics.

**(9)** “Social work” means applying psychosocial or counseling principles, methods, or procedures in the assessment, evaluation, or psychosocial diagnosis, prevention, treatment, or resolution of a difficulty in the social, psychological, personal, emotional, or mental functioning of an individual, couple, family, group of individuals, or community, including the enhancement or restoration of, or the creation of societal conditions favorable to the enhancement or restoration of, the capacity of an individual, couple, family, group of individuals, or community for social functioning or the delivery of services to a group of individuals or a community to assist the group or community in providing or improving the provision of social or health services to others.

**(10)** “Social worker” means an individual who holds a social worker certificate granted by the social worker section.

(11) “Social worker section” means the social worker section of the examining board.

History: 1991 a. 160; 2001 a. 80; 2023 a. 55.

**457.02 Applicability.** This subchapter does not do any of the following:

(1) Require any individual to be certified or licensed under this subchapter in order to use the title “pastoral counselor,” “investment counselor,” “vocational counselor,” “career counselor,” “alcohol and drug counselor,” “chemical dependency counselor,” or “employee assistance counselor,” or to engage in such counseling, if the individual does not use any other title or designation that represents or may tend to represent that he or she is certified or licensed under this subchapter, and does not represent himself or herself as an individual who engages in social work, advanced practice social work, independent social work, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling.

(2) Require any individual who is licensed as a school social worker or school counselor by the department of public instruction to be certified or licensed under this subchapter in order to use the title “school social worker” or “school counselor.”

(3) Require a person who is a psychologist or a psychiatrist to be licensed under this subchapter in order to use the title “marriage and family therapist,” “marriage and family counselor,” or “professional counselor” if the psychologist or psychiatrist does not use the term “licensed,” “certified,” or “registered” or any similar term in connection with the title “marriage and family therapist,” “marriage and family counselor,” or “professional counselor.”

(4) Authorize any individual who is certified or licensed under this subchapter to use the title “school social worker” or “school counselor” unless the individual is licensed as a school social worker or school counselor by the department of public instruction.

(5) Authorize any individual who is certified under s. 457.08 (1), 457.09 (1), or 457.14 (1) (a) to (c) to use the title “alcohol and drug counselor” or “chemical dependency counselor” unless the individual is certified as an alcohol and drug counselor or as a chemical dependency counselor through a process recognized by the department.

(5m) Authorize any individual who is certified under s. 457.08 (1), 457.09 (1), or 457.14 (1) (a) to (c) to treat substance use disorder as a specialty unless the individual is a certified substance abuse counselor, clinical supervisor, or prevention specialist under s. 440.88, or unless the individual satisfies educational and supervised training requirements established in rules promulgated by the examining board. In promulgating rules under this subsection, the examining board shall consider the requirements for qualifying as a certified substance abuse counselor, clinical supervisor, or prevention specialist under s. 440.88.

(6) Require a credential for a person to do any of the following:

(a) Lawfully practice within the scope of a license, permit, registration, or certificate granted by this state or the federal government, or granted through a process recognized by the department of health services, including practicing psychotherapy under such a license, permit, registration, or certificate.

(b) Practice psychotherapy, if the person satisfies one of the following:

1. The person is registered as a music, art, or dance therapist under s. 440.03 (14) (a) and the person holds a valid license granted by the department under s. 440.03 (14) (am).

2. The person is a mental health professional who meets all of the qualifications under s. DHS 61.96, Wis. Adm. Code, for employment as a mental health professional in an outpatient psychotherapy clinic certified by the department of health services under s. DHS 61.95, Wis. Adm. Code, if the person’s practice of psychotherapy is a part of the duties for which he or she is

employed by such a clinic and the person practices psychotherapy solely within the confines of or under the jurisdiction of the clinic.

(c) Provide a consultation or demonstration with an individual licensed under this subchapter if the person providing the consultation or demonstration is licensed to practice marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, or clinical social work in another state or territory of the United States.

History: 1991 a. 160; 1995 a. 27 ss. 9126 (19), 9145 (1); 1997 a. 27; 2001 a. 80, 105; 2005 a. 25, 254, 407; 2007 a. 20 s. 9121 (6) (a); 2009 a. 180; 2017 a. 262, 331; 2021 a. 131, 222, 238; 2023 a. 55.

**457.03 Duties and powers of examining board and sections.** The examining board shall do all of the following:

(1) Upon the advice of the social worker section, marriage and family therapist section, and professional counselor section, promulgate rules establishing minimum standards for educational programs that must be completed for certification or licensure under this subchapter and for supervised clinical training that must be completed for licensure as a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or professional counselor under this subchapter and approve educational programs and supervised clinical training programs in accordance with those standards.

(1m) Upon the advice of the social worker section, marriage and family therapist section, and professional counselor section, and consistent with s. 457.16, promulgate rules establishing examination requirements for certification and licensure under this subchapter.

(2) Upon the advice of the social worker section, marriage and family therapist section, and professional counselor section, promulgate rules establishing a code of ethics to govern the professional conduct of certificate holders and licensees. The rules shall specify the services included within the practice of social work, advanced practice social work, or independent social work that an individual who is certified under this subchapter as a social worker, advanced practice social worker, or independent social worker may perform and the degree of supervision, if any, required to perform those services.

(3) Upon the advice of the social worker section, promulgate rules establishing levels of social work practice for individuals with master’s or doctoral degrees in social work, in addition to the levels of practice for which certificates are granted under s. 457.08 (2) and (3), and establishing appropriate educational, training, experience, examination, and continuing education requirements for certification and renewal of a certificate at each level of practice established in rules promulgated under this subsection.

History: 1991 a. 160; 2001 a. 80; 2005 a. 422; 2017 a. 357; 2023 a. 55.

Cross-reference: See also chs. MPSW 1, 3, 6, and 20, Wis. adm. code.

**457.033 Psychometric testing.** The marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, and social work examining board and the psychology examining board shall jointly promulgate rules that specify the different levels of psychometric testing that an individual who is certified or licensed under this subchapter, or an individual who holds a valid professional counselor privilege to practice in this state, is qualified to perform. Such rules shall be consistent with the guidelines of the American Psychological Association, or other nationally recognized guidelines, for performing psychometric testing. A certificate holder, licensee, or holder of a professional counselor privilege to practice may not engage in psychometric testing except as provided under the rules promulgated under this section.

History: 2001 a. 80; 2023 a. 55.

**457.035 Psychotherapy rules.** The examining board may not promulgate rules under s. 457.03 that permit an individual to engage in psychotherapy unless one of the following applies:

(1) The individual is licensed under this subchapter as a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or professional counselor or holds a valid professional counselor privilege to practice in this state.

NOTE: Sub. (1) is shown as amended by 2023 Wis. Act 55. 2023 Wis. Act 55, section 77m (1), provides that, if either 2023 Senate Bill 391 or 2023 Assembly Bill 382 is enacted into law, the amendment of sub. (1) by 2023 Wis. Act 55 is void.

(2) The individual is certified as an advanced practice or independent social worker and the individual engages in psychotherapy only under the supervision of an individual specified in s. 457.08 (4) (c) 1., 2., 3., or 4.

History: 2001 a. 80; 2023 a. 55.

**457.04 Prohibited practices.** Except as provided in ss. 257.03 and 457.02, no person may do any of the following:

(1) Use the title “social worker” unless the person is certified as a social worker under this subchapter.

(2) Use the title “advanced practice social worker” unless the person is certified as an advanced practice social worker under this subchapter.

(3) Use the title “independent social worker” unless the person is certified as an independent social worker under this subchapter.

(4) Practice clinical social work or designate himself or herself as a clinical social worker or use or assume the title “clinical social worker” or any other title or designation that represents or may tend to represent the person as a clinical social worker unless the person is licensed as a clinical social worker under this subchapter or unless the person is certified under this subchapter as an advanced practice social worker or independent social worker and the person practices clinical social work under the supervision of a person who is licensed as a clinical social worker under this subchapter.

(5) Practice marriage and family therapy or designate himself or herself as a marriage and family therapist or use or assume the title “marriage and family therapist,” “marriage and family counselor,” or any other title or designation that represents or may tend to represent the person as a marriage and family therapist unless any of the following applies:

(a) The person is licensed as a marriage and family therapist under this subchapter.

(b) The person is licensed as a clinical social worker under this subchapter and initially became certified as an independent clinical social worker under ch. 457, 1999 stats., on or before May 31, 1995.

(6) Practice professional counseling or designate himself or herself as a professional counselor or use or assume the title “professional counselor,” “professional rehabilitation counselor,” “vocational rehabilitation counselor,” “rehabilitation counselor,” or any other title or designation that represents or may tend to represent the person as a professional counselor unless the person is licensed as a professional counselor under this subchapter or holds a valid professional counselor privilege to practice in this state.

(7) Practice psychotherapy unless the person is licensed under this subchapter, holds a valid professional counselor privilege to practice in this state, or is a certificate holder who may practice psychotherapy under the rules promulgated under ss. 457.03 and 457.035.

(8) Practice clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling without notifying his or her client in writing of the procedure to follow to resolve a grievance. The notice required under this subsection shall provide one of the following options for resolving a grievance to the client:

(a) A grievance resolution procedure that contains all of the following elements:

1. The name, address, and telephone number of, and any other contact information available for, the appropriate section of the examining board that is responsible for receiving a complaint and investigating and conducting a hearing under s. 457.26 (1).

2. The name, address, and telephone number of, and any other contact information available for, a person not involved in the services, therapy, or counseling giving rise to the complaint who would be available to receive and investigate a complaint.

3. The manner by which a client may present a complaint to a person identified in subd. 1. or 2.

4. The manner by which a client may appeal the resolution of a complaint presented in subd. 3.

5. Time limits for filing, processing, and appealing the resolution of a complaint presented under subd. 3.

6. Protections against retaliation for a client who presents a complaint under subd. 3. and for any person who assists the client to present a complaint under subd. 3.

(b) A grievance resolution procedure that complies with the rules promulgated under s. 51.61 (5) (b).

(c) A grievance resolution procedure that is available to the credential holder through a professional association of which the credential holder is a member.

History: 1991 a. 160; 2001 a. 80; 2005 a. 96; 2009 a. 28, 42; 2023 a. 55.

Cross-reference: See also ch. MPSW 20, Wis. adm. code.

**457.06 General requirements for certification or licensure.** The social worker section, marriage and family therapist section, or professional counselor section may not grant any certificate or license under this subchapter unless the applicant does all of the following:

(1) Submits an application for the certificate or license to the department on a form provided by the department.

(2) Pays the fee specified in s. 440.05 (1).

History: 1991 a. 160; 2001 a. 80; 2023 a. 55.

**457.08 Social worker certificates and licenses.**

(1) SOCIAL WORKER CERTIFICATE. The social worker section shall grant a social worker certificate to an individual who qualifies under s. 457.09 (5) (d) or to any individual who does all of the following:

(a) Satisfies the requirements in s. 457.06.

(b) Submits evidence satisfactory to the social worker section that he or she has received a bachelor’s or master’s degree in social work from a program accredited by, or a preaccreditation program of, the council on social work education or a doctorate degree in social work.

(c) Passes one or more examinations approved by the social worker section to determine minimum competence to practice as a social worker as specified in the rules promulgated under s. 457.03 (2).

(2) ADVANCED PRACTICE SOCIAL WORKER CERTIFICATE. The social worker section shall grant an advanced practice social worker certificate to any individual who is certified under sub. (1) and does all of the following:

(a) Satisfies the requirements in s. 457.06.

(b) Submits evidence satisfactory to the social worker section that he or she has received a master’s degree in social work from a program accredited by, or a preaccreditation program of, the council on social work education or a doctorate degree in social work.

(c) Passes one or more examinations approved by the social worker section to determine minimum competence to practice as an advanced practice social worker as specified in the rules promulgated under s. 457.03 (2).

(3) INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKER CERTIFICATE. The social worker section shall grant an independent social worker certificate to any individual who is certified under sub. (1) and does all of the following:

(a) Satisfies the requirements in s. 457.06.

(b) Submits evidence satisfactory to the social worker section that he or she has received a master’s degree in social work from a program accredited by, or a preaccreditation program of, the council on social work education or a doctorate degree in social work.

(c) Submits evidence satisfactory to the social worker section that after receiving a master’s or doctorate degree in social work he or she has engaged in the equivalent of at least 2 years of full–



cate and who passes the examinations specified under pars. (a) and (b).

**History:** 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 80; 2017 a. 330; 2023 a. 55.

**Cross-reference:** See also s. MPSW 3.13, Wis. adm. code.

**457.10 Marriage and family therapist license.** The marriage and family therapist section shall grant a marriage and family therapist license to any individual who does all of the following:

(1) Satisfies the requirements in s. 457.06.

(2) Submits evidence satisfactory to the marriage and family therapist section that he or she has done any of the following:

(a) Received a master's or doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education.

(b) Received a master's or doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy, psychology, sociology, social work, professional counseling or other mental health field that included course work that the marriage and family therapist section determines is substantially equivalent to the course work required for a master's or doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy described under par. (a).

(3) Submits evidence satisfactory to the marriage and family therapist section that after receiving a master's or doctorate degree required under sub. (2) he or she has engaged in the equivalent of at least 3,000 hours of marriage and family therapy practice, including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact, supervised by one of the following:

(a) An individual licensed as a marriage and family therapist who has received a doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy.

(b) An individual licensed as a marriage and family therapist who has engaged in the equivalent of 5 years of full-time marriage and family therapy practice.

(c) A psychiatrist or a psychologist licensed under ch. 455.

(d) An individual, other than an individual specified in par. (a), (b), or (c), who is approved by the marriage and family therapist section or satisfies requirements for supervision that are specified in rules promulgated by the examining board upon the advice of the marriage and family therapist section.

(4) Passes one or more examinations approved by the marriage and family therapist section to determine minimum competence to practice marriage and family therapy.

**History:** 1991 a. 160; 2001 a. 80; 2017 a. 357.

**Cross-reference:** See also chs. MPSW 15 and 16, Wis. adm. code.

**457.11 Marriage and family therapist training license.**

(1) The marriage and family therapist section shall grant a marriage and family therapist training license to any individual who does all of the following:

(a) Submits an application for the license to the department on a form provided by the department.

(b) Pays the fee specified in s. 440.05 (6).

(c) Satisfies the requirements in s. 457.10 (2), or submits proof satisfactory to the marriage and family therapist section that he or she is enrolled or will be enrolled in an institute for marriage and family therapy that is approved by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy or by the marriage and family therapist section, or holds a graduate degree in a mental health field approved by the marriage and family therapist section and is enrolled or will be enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree program in marriage and family therapy accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education or by the marriage and family therapist section.

(d) Submits evidence satisfactory to the marriage and family therapist section that he or she is in a position, or has an offer for a position, as a marriage and family therapist in a supervised marriage and family therapist practice or is in a position, or has an

offer for a position, in which the applicant will, in the opinion of the marriage and family therapist section, receive training and supervision equivalent to the training and supervision received in a supervised marriage and family therapist practice.

(2) A marriage and family therapist training license is valid for 48 months and may be renewed at the discretion of the marriage and family therapist section. A marriage and family therapist training license authorizes the holder to use any title specified in s. 457.04 (5) and to practice marriage and family therapy within the scope of his or her training or supervision during the period in which the license is valid.

**History:** 2001 a. 80; 2005 a. 422.

**457.12 Professional counselor license; privilege to practice. (1m) LICENSE.** The professional counselor section shall, subject to sub. (4m), grant a professional counselor license to any individual to whom all of the following apply:

(a) The individual satisfies the requirements in s. 457.06.

(b) The individual submits evidence satisfactory to the professional counselor section that he or she has received a master's or doctorate degree in professional counseling or its equivalent from a program approved by the professional counselor section.

(bm) The individual does not, subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, have a conviction record.

(c) The individual submits evidence satisfactory to the professional counselor section that he or she has done any of the following:

1. After receiving a master's degree in professional counseling or its equivalent, engaged in the equivalent of at least 3,000 hours of professional counseling practice, including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact, supervised by one of the following:

a. An individual licensed as a professional counselor who has received a doctorate degree in professional counseling.

b. An individual licensed as a professional counselor who has engaged in the equivalent of 5 years of full-time professional counseling practice.

c. A psychiatrist or a psychologist licensed under ch. 455.

d. An individual, other than an individual specified in subd. 1. a., b., or c., who is approved by the professional counselor section or satisfies requirements for supervision that are specified in rules promulgated by the examining board upon the advice of the professional counselor section.

2. Received a doctorate degree in professional counseling or its equivalent, and, either during or after the doctorate degree program or its equivalent, engaged in the equivalent of at least 1,000 hours of full-time professional counseling practice supervised by one of the following:

a. An individual licensed as a professional counselor who has received a doctorate degree in professional counseling.

b. An individual licensed as a professional counselor who has engaged in the equivalent of 5 years of full-time professional counseling practice.

c. A psychiatrist or a psychologist licensed under ch. 455.

d. An individual, other than an individual specified in subd. 2. a., b., or c., who is approved by the professional counselor section or satisfies requirements for supervision that are specified in rules promulgated by the examining board upon the advice of the professional counselor section.

(d) The individual passes one or more examinations under s. 457.16 approved by the professional counselor section to determine minimum competence to practice professional counseling.

**(2m) LICENSE BASED UPON PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE.** The professional counselor section shall grant a professional counselor license to any individual to whom all of the following apply:

(a) The individual satisfies the requirements in s. 457.06.

(b) The individual holds a home state license in another state that is a party to the counseling compact, has changed his or her

primary state of residence to this state, and satisfies all other requirements under s. 457.50 (5).

(bm) The individual does not, subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, have a conviction record.

(d) The individual passes an examination described under s. 457.16 (1) (b), if required.

**(3m) PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE.** The professional counselor section shall grant a professional counselor privilege to practice to any individual to whom all of the following apply:

(a) The individual holds an unencumbered home state license in another state that is a party to the counseling compact and satisfies all other requirements under s. 457.50 (4).

(b) The individual applies for the privilege to practice in the manner prescribed by the department.

(c) The individual pays any fee established by the department under s. 457.51 (2).

(d) The individual passes an examination described under s. 457.16 (1) (b), if required.

**(4m) TYPES OF LICENSE.** (a) A professional counselor license granted under sub. (1m) may be either of the following:

1. A license that, subject to s. 457.50 (4), entitles the holder to obtain and exercise a privilege to practice in other states that are parties to the counseling compact.

2. A single–state license, which only entitles the holder to practice in this state. Nothing in the counseling compact applies to the holder of a single–state license unless otherwise applicable under this subchapter.

(b) When applying for a license under sub. (1m), an individual shall specify whether he or she is applying for a license under par. (a) 1. or 2.

**History:** 1991 a. 160; 1993 a. 366; 2001 a. 80; 2017 a. 357; 2023 a. 55.

**Cross–reference:** See also chs. MPSW 12 and 14 and s. MPSW 11.01, Wis. adm. code.

### 457.13 Professional counselor training license.

**(1)** The professional counselor section shall grant a professional counselor training license to any individual who does all of the following:

(a) Submits an application for the license to the department on a form provided by the department.

(b) Pays the fee specified in s. 440.05 (6).

(c) Satisfies the requirements in s. 457.12 (1m) (b).

(d) Submits evidence satisfactory to the professional counselor section that he or she is in a position, or has an offer for a position, as a professional counselor in a supervised clinical professional counseling practice or is in a position, or has an offer for a position, in which the applicant will, in the opinion of the professional counselor section, receive training and supervision equivalent to the training and supervision received in a supervised clinical professional counseling practice.

**(2)** A professional counselor training license is valid for 48 months and may be renewed at the discretion of the professional counselor section. Notwithstanding s. 457.04 (6), a professional counselor training license authorizes the holder to use any title specified in s. 457.04 (6) and to practice professional counseling within the scope of his or her training or supervision during the period in which the license is valid.

**History:** 1993 a. 366; 2001 a. 80; 2005 a. 422; 2023 a. 55.

**Cross–reference:** See also s. MPSW 11.015, Wis. adm. code.

**457.14 Temporary certificates and licenses.** **(1)** Upon application and payment of the fee specified in s. 440.05 (6), the appropriate section of the examining board may grant a temporary social worker, advanced practice social worker, independent social worker, clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or professional counselor certificate or license to any individual who does one of the following:

(a) Satisfies the requirements under s. 457.08 (1) (a) and (b) and has submitted an application to take the next available examination for certification under s. 457.08 (1) (c).

(b) Satisfies the requirements under s. 457.08 (2) (a) and (b) and has submitted an application to take the next available examination for certification under s. 457.08 (2) (c).

(c) Satisfies the requirements under s. 457.08 (3) (a) to (c) and has submitted an application to take the next available examination for certification under s. 457.08 (3) (d).

(d) Satisfies the requirements under s. 457.08 (4) (a) to (c) and has submitted an application to take the next available examination for licensure under s. 457.08 (4) (d).

(e) Satisfies the requirements under s. 457.10 (1) to (3) and has submitted an application to take the next available examination for licensure under s. 457.10 (4).

(f) Satisfies the requirements under s. 457.12 (1m) (a) to (c) and has submitted an application to take the next available examination for licensure under s. 457.12 (1m) (d).

**(2)** A temporary certificate or license granted under sub. (1) is valid for a period designated by the appropriate section of the examining board, not to exceed 9 months, and may be renewed once by that section of the examining board.

**History:** 1991 a. 160; 2001 a. 80; 2005 a. 422; 2023 a. 55.

**Cross–reference:** See also ss. MPSW 3.11, 11.035, and 17.01, Wis. adm. code.

**457.15 Reciprocal certificates and licenses.** **(1)** Upon application and payment of the fee specified in s. 440.05 (2), the social worker section may do all of the following:

(a) Grant a social worker certificate to any individual who holds a similar certificate in another state or territory of the United States and who passes an examination approved by the social worker section that tests knowledge of state law relating to social work, if the social worker section determines that the requirements for obtaining the certificate in the other state or territory are substantially equivalent to the requirements under s. 457.08 (1).

(b) Grant an advanced practice social worker certificate to any individual who holds a similar certificate in another state or territory of the United States and who passes an examination approved by the social worker section that tests knowledge of state law relating to advanced practice social work, if the social worker section determines that the requirements for obtaining the certificate in the other state or territory are substantially equivalent to the requirements under s. 457.08 (2).

(c) Grant an independent social worker certificate to any individual who holds a similar certificate in another state or territory of the United States and who passes an examination approved by the social worker section that tests knowledge of state law relating to independent social work, if the social worker section determines that the requirements for obtaining the certificate in the other state or territory are substantially equivalent to the requirements under s. 457.08 (3).

(d) Grant a clinical social worker license to any individual who holds a similar certificate or license in another state or territory of the United States and who passes an examination approved by the social worker section that tests knowledge of state law relating to clinical social work, if the social worker section determines that the requirements for obtaining the certificate or license in the other state or territory are substantially equivalent to the requirements under s. 457.08 (4).

**(2)** Upon application and payment of the fee specified in s. 440.05 (2), the marriage and family therapist section may grant a marriage and family therapist license to any individual who holds a similar certificate or license in another state or territory of the United States and who passes an examination approved by the marriage and family therapist section that tests knowledge of state law relating to marriage and family therapy, if the marriage and family therapist section determines that the requirements for

obtaining the certificate or license in the other state or territory are substantially equivalent to the requirements under s. 457.10.

(3) Upon application and payment of the fee specified in s. 440.05 (2), the professional counselor section may grant a professional counselor license to any individual who holds a similar certificate or license in another state or territory of the United States and who passes an examination approved by the professional counselor section that tests knowledge of state law relating to professional counseling, if the professional counselor section determines that the requirements for obtaining the certificate or license in the other state or territory are substantially equivalent to the requirements under s. 457.12 (1m).

**History:** 1991 a. 160; 2001 a. 80; 2023 a. 55.

**Cross-reference:** See also ss. MPSW 3.12, 11.04, and 17.02, Wis. adm. code.

The Examining Board may not require applicants for reciprocal certificates to pass an examination covering state law in the absence of a statutory requirement. Applicants for certificates under reciprocal certification must demonstrate that they obtained their certificates under a state law that was substantially equivalent to Wisconsin's educational, experience, and examination requirements. OAG 4-99.

**457.16 Examinations.** (1) (a) The appropriate section of the examining board shall arrange for examinations for social worker, advanced practice social worker, independent social worker, clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, and professional counselor certification and licensure to be conducted at least semiannually and at times and places determined by that section of the examining board, and shall provide public notice of each examination at least 90 days before the date of the examination.

(b) The professional counselor section may, in accordance with par. (a), arrange for an examination that tests an applicant's knowledge of state law relating to the practice of professional counseling in accordance with s. 457.51 (3), if such an examination is required for applicants for licensure under s. 457.12 (1m).

(2) Examinations shall consist of written or oral tests, or both, requiring applicants to demonstrate minimum competency in subjects substantially related to the practice of social work, advanced practice social work, independent social work, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling, as appropriate, and may include an examination that tests an applicant's knowledge of state law relating to the relevant practice.

**History:** 1991 a. 160; 2001 a. 80; 2017 a. 330, 357; 2023 a. 55.

**Cross-reference:** See also ch. MPSW 5, Wis. adm. code.

**457.18 Practice under counseling compact.** An individual who holds a valid privilege to practice in this state may, subject to s. 457.51 (4), do any of the following:

(1) Practice professional counseling in this state, subject to s. 457.50 (4).

(2) Practice professional counseling in this state via telehealth, as defined in s. 457.50 (2) (y), subject to s. 457.50 (7).

**History:** 2023 a. 55.

**457.20 Issuance of certificate; expiration and renewal.**

(1) The department shall issue a certificate of certification or licensure to each individual who is certified or licensed under this subchapter.

(2) The renewal dates for certificates and licenses granted under this subchapter, other than training certificates and licenses or temporary certificates or licenses, are specified under s. 440.08 (2) (a).

(3) Renewal applications shall be submitted to the department on a form provided by the department and shall be accompanied by all of the following:

(a) The renewal fee determined by the department under s. 440.03 (9) (a).

(b) Proof of completion of continuing education requirements in s. 457.22.

(c) If the application is for renewal of a professional counselor license that was originally granted as a professional counselor certificate under 1991 Wisconsin Act 160, section 21 (2) (g), evidence satisfactory to the professional counselor section that the

applicant continues to be employed by a federal, state, or local governmental agency as a professional counselor, professional rehabilitation counselor, vocational rehabilitation counselor, or rehabilitation counselor.

(4) Renewal of an advanced practice social worker, independent social worker, or clinical social worker certificate or license automatically renews the individual's social worker certificate without payment of the renewal fee for the social worker certificate or completion of the continuing education requirements that would otherwise be required for renewal of a social worker certificate.

**History:** 1991 a. 160; 1993 a. 366; 2001 a. 80; 2005 a. 422; 2007 a. 20; 2023 a. 55.

**457.22 Continuing education.** (1) The examining board may do any of the following:

(a) Upon the advice of the social worker section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and procedures for social workers, advanced practice social workers, independent social workers, and clinical social workers to complete continuing education programs or courses of study in order to qualify for renewal.

(b) Upon the advice of the marriage and family therapist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and procedures for marriage and family therapists to complete continuing education programs or courses of study in order to qualify for renewal.

(c) Upon the advice of the professional counselor section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and procedures for professional counselors to complete continuing education programs or courses of study in order to qualify for renewal.

(2) The rules promulgated under sub. (1) may not require an individual to complete more than 30 hours of continuing education programs or courses of study in order to qualify for renewal. The appropriate section of the examining board may waive all or part of the requirements established in rules promulgated under this section if it determines that prolonged illness, disability, or other exceptional circumstances have prevented the individual from completing the requirements.

**History:** 1991 a. 160; 2001 a. 80.

**Cross-reference:** See also ch. MPSW 19, Wis. adm. code.

**457.24 Professional liability insurance.** (1) Except as provided in sub. (2), a person licensed as a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or professional counselor under this subchapter or who is exercising the professional counselor privilege to practice in this state may not practice clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling unless he or she has in effect professional liability insurance. The examining board shall promulgate rules establishing the minimum amount of insurance required under this subsection.

**NOTE:** Sub. (1) is shown as amended by 2023 Wis. Act 55. 2023 Wis. Act 55, section 77m (1), provides that, if either 2023 Senate Bill 391 or 2023 Assembly Bill 382 is enacted into law, the amendment of sub. (1) by 2023 Wis. Act 55 is void.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person practicing clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling as an employee of a federal, state, or local governmental agency, if the practice is part of the duties for which he or she is employed and is solely within the confines of or under the jurisdiction of the agency by which he or she is employed.

**History:** 2001 a. 80; 2023 a. 55.

**457.25 Reporting requirements.** (1) Any public or private mental health or health care agency, institution or facility, or any other person or entity that employs or contracts for services with a credential holder, that terminates, suspends, or restricts the employment or contract of the credential holder as a result of adverse or disciplinary action against the credential holder relating to his or her practice of social work, advanced practice social work, independent social work, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling shall submit a written report of the action to the appropriate section of the examining board within 30 days after the date on which the action is taken or, if grounds for such an action exist and the credential holder termi-

nates his or her employment before the action is taken, within 30 days after the date on which the credential holder terminates his or her employment.

(2) Any state or local professional society or organization of social workers, marriage and family therapists, or professional counselors that terminates, revokes, or suspends the membership of a credential holder, or takes any other adverse or disciplinary action against a credential holder relating to his or her practice of social work, advanced practice social work, independent social work, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling, shall submit a written report of the action to the appropriate section of the examining board within 30 days after the date on which the action is taken or, if grounds for such an action exist and the credential holder terminates his or her membership before the action is taken, within 30 days after the date on which the credential holder terminates his or her membership.

(3) Any insurer, as defined in s. 600.03 (27), who provides professional liability insurance coverage for a credential holder and who pays a claim for damages arising out of the rendering of services by the credential holder or obtains any information that tends to substantiate a charge that the credential holder has engaged in conduct that constitutes grounds for discipline under s. 457.26 shall submit a written report of the payment or information to the appropriate section of the examining board within 30 days after the date on which the payment is made or information is obtained.

(4) Any circuit court that appoints a guardian of the person or estate of a credential holder or makes a judgment or other determination that a credential holder is mentally ill or mentally incompetent or that a credential holder has done any of the acts enumerated in s. 457.26 (2) shall submit a written report of the appointment, judgment, or determination to the appropriate section of the examining board within 30 days after the date on which the appointment, judgment, or determination is made.

**History:** 1991 a. 160; 2001 a. 80; 2011 a. 146.

**457.26 Disciplinary proceedings and actions.** (1) Subject to the rules promulgated under s. 440.03 (1), the appropriate section of the examining board may make investigations and conduct hearings to determine whether a violation of this subchapter or any rule promulgated under this subchapter has occurred.

(2) Subject to the rules promulgated under s. 440.03 (1), the appropriate section of the examining board may reprimand a credential holder or deny, limit, suspend, or revoke a credential under this subchapter if it finds that the applicant or credential holder has done any of the following:

- (a) Made a material misstatement in an application for a credential or for renewal of a credential.
- (b) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, been convicted of an offense the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice of social work, advanced practice social work, independent social work, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling.
- (c) Advertised in a manner that is false, deceptive or misleading.
- (d) Advertised, practiced or attempted to practice under another's name.
- (e) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.34, practiced social work, advanced practice social work, independent social work, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling while his or her ability to practice was impaired by alcohol or other drugs.
- (f) Engaged in unprofessional or unethical conduct in violation of the code of ethics established in the rules promulgated under s. 457.03 (2).

(g) Performed social work, advanced practice social work, or independent social work services in violation of the rules promulgated under s. 457.03 (2) or otherwise engaged in conduct while practicing social work, advanced practice social work, indepen-

dent social work, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling which evidences a lack of knowledge or ability to apply professional principles or skills.

(gm) Violated the requirements of s. 253.10 (3) (c) 2., 3., 4., 5., 6. or 7.

(h) Violated this subchapter or any rule promulgated under **History:** 1991 a. 160; 1995 a. 309; 2001 a. 80; 2017 a. 364 s. 49; 2023 a. 55.

**457.28 Injunctive relief.** If the appropriate section of the examining board has reason to believe that any person is violating s. 457.04, the appropriate section of the examining board, the examining board, the department, the attorney general or the district attorney of the proper county may investigate and may, in addition to any other remedies, bring an action in the name and on behalf of this state to enjoin the person from the violation.

**History:** 1991 a. 160.

## SUBCHAPTER II

### COUNSELING COMPACT

**457.50 Counseling compact.** (1) **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of licensed professional counselors with the goal of improving public access to professional counseling services. The practice of professional counseling occurs in the state where the client is located at the time of the counseling services. The compact preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure. This compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:

(a) Increase public access to professional counseling services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses;

(b) Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety;

(c) Encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate practice for licensed professional counselors;

(d) Support spouses of relocating active duty military personnel;

(e) Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information among member states;

(f) Allow for the use of telehealth technology to facilitate increased access to professional counseling services;

(g) Support the uniformity of professional counseling licensure requirements throughout the states to promote public safety and public health benefits;

(h) Invest all member states with the authority to hold a licensed professional counselor accountable for meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the client is located at the time care is rendered through the mutual recognition of member state licenses;

(i) Eliminate the necessity for licenses in multiple states; and

(j) Provide opportunities for interstate practice by licensed professional counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.

(2) **DEFINITIONS.** AS used in this section, and except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Active duty military" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the national guard and reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 USC chs. 1209 and 1211.

(b) "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a state's laws which is imposed by a licensing board or other authority against a licensed professional counselor, including actions against an individual's license or privilege to practice such as revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee, limitation on the licensee's practice, or any other encumbrance on licensure affecting a



licensed professional counselor's authorization to practice, including issuance of a cease and desist action.

(c) "Alternative program" means a nondisciplinary monitoring or practice remediation process approved by a professional counseling licensing board to address impaired practitioners.

(d) "Continuing competence/education" means a requirement, as a condition of license renewal, to provide evidence of participation in, and/or completion of, educational and professional activities relevant to practice or area of work.

(e) "Counseling compact commission" or "commission" means the national administrative body whose membership consists of all states that have enacted the compact.

(f) "Current significant investigative information" means any of the following:

1. Investigative information that a licensing board, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity for the licensed professional counselor to respond, if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, would indicate more than a minor infraction; or

2. Investigative information that indicates that the licensed professional counselor represents an immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the licensed professional counselor has been notified and had an opportunity to respond.

(g) "Data system" means a repository of information about licensees, including, but not limited to, continuing education, examination, licensure, investigative, privilege to practice and adverse action information.

(h) "Encumbered license" means a license in which an adverse action restricts the practice of licensed professional counseling by the licensee and said adverse action has been reported to the national practitioners data bank (NPDB).

(i) "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or any limitation on, the full and unrestricted practice of licensed professional counseling by a licensing board.

(j) "Executive committee" means a group of directors elected or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by, the commission.

(k) "Home state" means the member state that is the licensee's primary state of residence.

(L) "Impaired practitioner" means an individual who has a condition(s) that may impair their ability to practice as a licensed professional counselor without some type of intervention and may include, but is not limited to, alcohol and drug dependence, mental health impairment, and neurological or physical impairments.

(m) "Investigative information" means information, records, and documents received or generated by a professional counseling licensing board pursuant to an investigation.

(n) "Jurisprudence requirement" if required by a member state, means the assessment of an individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of professional counseling in a state.

(o) "Licensed professional counselor" means a counselor licensed by a member state, regardless of the title used by that state, to independently assess, diagnose, and treat behavioral health conditions.

(p) "Licensee" means an individual who currently holds an authorization from the state to practice as a licensed professional counselor.

(q) "Licensing board" means the agency of a state, or equivalent, that is responsible for the licensing and regulation of licensed professional counselors.

(r) "Member state" means a state that has enacted the compact.

(s) "Privilege to practice" means a legal authorization, which is equivalent to a license, permitting the practice of professional counseling in a remote state.

(t) "Professional counseling" means the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of behavioral health conditions by a licensed professional counselor.

(u) "Remote state" means a member state other than the home state, where a licensee is exercising or seeking to exercise the privilege to practice.

(v) "Rule" means a regulation promulgated by the commission that has the force of law.

(w) "Single state license" means a licensed professional counselor license issued by a member state that authorizes practice only within the issuing state and does not include a privilege to practice in any other member state.

(x) "State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States of America that regulates the practice of professional counseling.

(y) "Telehealth" means the application of telecommunication technology to deliver professional counseling services remotely to assess, diagnose, and treat behavioral health conditions.

(z) "Unencumbered license" means a license that authorizes a licensed professional counselor to engage in the full and unrestricted practice of professional counseling.

**(3) STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT.** (a) To participate in the compact, a state must currently:

1. License and regulate licensed professional counselors.

2. Require licensees to pass a nationally recognized exam approved by the commission.

3. Require licensees to have a 60 semester-hour (or 90 quarter-hour) master's degree in counseling or 60 semester-hours (or 90 quarter-hours) of graduate course work including the following topic areas:

- a. Professional counseling orientation and ethical practice;

- b. Social and cultural diversity;

- c. Human growth and development;

- d. Career development;

- e. Counseling and helping relationships;

- f. Group counseling and group work;

- g. Diagnosis and treatment; assessment and testing;

- h. Research and program evaluation; and

- i. Other areas as determined by the commission.

4. Require licensees to complete a supervised postgraduate professional experience as defined by the commission.

5. Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about licensees.

(b) A member state shall:

1. Participate fully in the commission's data system, including using the commission's unique identifier as defined in rules;

2. Notify the commission, in compliance with the terms of the compact and rules, of any adverse action or the availability of investigative information regarding a licensee;

3. Implement or utilize procedures for considering the criminal history records of applicants for an initial privilege to practice. These procedures shall include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information from the federal bureau of investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records;

- a. A member state must fully implement a criminal background check requirement, within a time frame established by rule, by receiving the results of the federal bureau of investigation record search and shall use the results in making licensure decisions.

- b. Communication between a member state, the commission and among member states regarding the verification of eligibility for licensure through the compact shall not include any information received from the federal bureau of investigation relating to

a federal criminal records check performed by a member state under P. L. 92–544.

4. Comply with the rules of the commission;

5. Require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in the home state and meet the home state’s qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure, as well as all other applicable state laws;

6. Grant the privilege to practice to a licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in another member state in accordance with the terms of the compact and rules; and

7. Provide for the attendance of the state’s commissioner to the counseling compact commission meetings.

(c) Member states may charge a fee for granting the privilege to practice.

(d) Individuals not residing in a member state shall continue to be able to apply for a member state’s single state license as provided under the laws of each member state. However, the single state license granted to these individuals shall not be recognized as granting a privilege to practice professional counseling in any other member state.

(e) Nothing in this compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for the issuance of a single state license.

(f) A license issued to a licensed professional counselor by a home state to a resident in that state shall be recognized by each member state as authorizing a licensed professional counselor to practice professional counseling, under a privilege to practice, in each member state.

**(4) PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE.** (a) To exercise the privilege to practice under the terms and provisions of the compact, the licensee shall:

1. Hold a license in the home state;
2. Have a valid United States social security number or national practitioner identifier;
3. Be eligible for a privilege to practice in any member state in accordance with pars. (d), (g), and (h);
4. Have not had any encumbrance or restriction against any license or privilege to practice within the previous 2 years;
5. Notify the commission that the licensee is seeking the privilege to practice within a remote state(s);
6. Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the privilege to practice;
7. Meet any continuing competence/education requirements established by the home state;
8. Meet any jurisprudence requirements established by the remote state(s) in which the licensee is seeking a privilege to practice; and
9. Report to the commission any adverse action, encumbrance, or restriction on license taken by any non–member state within 30 days from the date the action is taken.

(b) The privilege to practice is valid until the expiration date of the home state license. The licensee must comply with the requirements of par. (a) to maintain the privilege to practice in the remote state.

(c) A licensee providing professional counseling in a remote state under the privilege to practice shall adhere to the laws and regulations of the remote state.

(d) A licensee providing professional counseling services in a remote state is subject to that state’s regulatory authority. A remote state may, in accordance with due process and that state’s laws, remove a licensee’s privilege to practice in the remote state for a specific period of time, impose fines, and/or take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens. The licensee may be ineligible for a privilege to practice in any member state until the specific time for removal has passed and all fines are paid.

(e) If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall lose the privilege to practice in any remote state until the following occur:

1. The home state license is no longer encumbered; and
2. Have not had any encumbrance or restriction against any license or privilege to practice within the previous 2 years.

(f) Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored to good standing, the licensee must meet the requirements of par. (a) to obtain a privilege to practice in any remote state.

(g) If a licensee’s privilege to practice in any remote state is removed, the individual may lose the privilege to practice in all other remote states until the following occur:

1. The specific period of time for which the privilege to practice was removed has ended;
2. All fines have been paid; and
3. Have not had any encumbrance or restriction against any license or privilege to practice within the previous 2 years.

(h) Once the requirements of par. (g) have been met, the licensee must meet the requirements in par. (a) to obtain a privilege to practice in a remote state.

**(5) OBTAINING A NEW HOME STATE LICENSE BASED ON A PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE.** (a) A licensed professional counselor may hold a home state license, which allows for a privilege to practice in other member states, in only one member state at a time.

(b) If a licensed professional counselor changes primary state of residence by moving between two member states:

1. The licensed professional counselor shall file an application for obtaining a new home state license based on a privilege to practice, pay all applicable fees, and notify the current and new home state in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the commission.

2. Upon receipt of an application for obtaining a new home state license by virtue of a privilege to practice, the new home state shall verify that the licensed professional counselor meets the pertinent criteria outlined in sub. (4) via the data system, without need for primary source verification except for:

a. A federal bureau of investigation fingerprint based criminal background check if not previously performed or updated pursuant to applicable rules adopted by the commission in accordance with P. L. 92–544;

b. Other criminal background check as required by the new home state; and

c. Completion of any requisite jurisprudence requirements of the new home state.

3. The former home state shall convert the former home state license into a privilege to practice once the new home state has activated the new home state license in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the commission.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this compact, if the licensed professional counselor cannot meet the criteria in sub. (4), the new home state may apply its requirements for issuing a new single state license.

5. The licensed professional counselor shall pay all applicable fees to the new home state in order to be issued a new home state license.

(c) If a licensed professional counselor changes primary state of residence by moving from a member state to a non–member state, or from a non–member state to a member state, the state criteria shall apply for issuance of a single state license in the new state.

(d) Nothing in this compact shall interfere with a licensee’s ability to hold a single state license in multiple states, however for the purposes of this compact, a licensee shall have only one home state license.

(e) Nothing in this compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for the issuance of a single state license.

**(6) ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THEIR SPOUSES.** Active duty military personnel, or their spouse, shall designate a home state where the individual has a current license in good standing. The individual may retain the home state designation during the period the service member is on active duty. Subse-

quent to designating a home state, the individual shall only change their home state through application for licensure in the new state, or through the process outlined in sub. (5).

(7) **COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE TELEHEALTH.** (a) Member states shall recognize the right of a licensed professional counselor, licensed by a home state in accordance with sub. (3) and under rules promulgated by the commission, to practice professional counseling in any member state via telehealth under a privilege to practice as provided in the compact and rules promulgated by the commission.

(b) A licensee providing professional counseling services in a remote state under the privilege to practice shall adhere to the laws and regulations of the remote state.

(8) **ADVERSE ACTIONS.** (a) In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote state shall have the authority, in accordance with existing state due process law, to:

1. Take adverse action against a licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice within that member state; and

2. Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a licensing board in a member state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another member state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence are located.

3. Only the home state shall have the power to take adverse action against a licensed professional counselor's license issued by the home state.

(b) For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state shall give the same priority and effect to reported conduct received from a member state as it would if the conduct had occurred within the home state. In so doing, the home state shall apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action.

(c) The home state shall complete any pending investigations of a licensed professional counselor who changes primary state of residence during the course of the investigations. The home state shall also have the authority to take appropriate action(s) and shall promptly report the conclusions of the investigations to the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the new home state of any adverse actions.

(d) A member state, if otherwise permitted by state law, may recover from the affected licensed professional counselor the costs of investigations and dispositions of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against that licensed professional counselor.

(e) A member state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote state, provided that the member state follows its own procedures for taking the adverse action.

(f) **Joint investigations:**

1. In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its respective professional counseling practice act or other applicable state law, any member state may participate with other member states in joint investigations of licensees.

2. Member states shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under the compact.

(g) If adverse action is taken by the home state against the license of a licensed professional counselor, the licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice in all other member states shall be deactivated until all encumbrances have been removed from the state license. All home state disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against the license of a licensed professional counselor shall include a statement that the licensed profes-

sional counselor's privilege to practice is deactivated in all member states during the pendency of the order.

(h) If a member state takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the home state of any adverse actions by remote states.

(i) Nothing in this compact shall override a member state's decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action.

(9) **ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNSELING COMPACT COMMISSION.** (a) The compact member states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the counseling compact commission:

1. The commission is an instrumentality of the compact states.

2. Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission is located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

3. Nothing in this compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity.

(b) *Membership, voting, and meetings.* 1. Each member state shall have and be limited to one delegate selected by that member state's licensing board.

2. The delegate shall be either:

a. A current member of the licensing board at the time of appointment, who is a licensed professional counselor or public member; or

b. An administrator of the licensing board.

3. Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which the delegate is appointed.

4. The member state licensing board shall fill any vacancy occurring on the commission within 60 days.

5. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the commission.

6. A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.

7. The commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.

8. The commission shall by rule establish a term of office for delegates and may by rule establish term limits.

(c) The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Establish the fiscal year of the commission;

2. Establish bylaws;

3. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;

4. Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this compact and the bylaws;

5. Promulgate rules which shall be binding to the extent and in the manner provided for in the compact;

6. Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the commission, provided that the standing of any state licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

7. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

8. Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a member state;

9. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate

authority to carry out the purposes of the compact, and establish the commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters;

10. Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, and to receive, utilize, and dispose of the same; provided that at all times the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety and/or conflict of interest;

11. Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use, any property, real, personal or mixed; provided that at all times the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety;

12. Sell convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal, or mixed;

13. Establish a budget and make expenditures;

14. Borrow money;

15. Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or their representatives, and consumer representatives, and such other interested persons as may be designated in this compact and the bylaws;

16. Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement agencies;

17. Establish and elect an executive committee; and

18. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact consistent with the state regulation of professional counseling licensure and practice.

(d) *The executive committee.* 1. The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the commission according to the terms of this compact.

2. The executive committee shall be composed of up to 11 members:

a. Seven voting members who are elected by the commission from the current membership of the commission; and

b. Up to 4 ex officio, nonvoting members from 4 recognized national professional counselor organizations.

c. The ex officio members will be selected by their respective organizations.

3. The commission may remove any member of the executive committee as provided in bylaws.

4. The executive committee shall meet at least annually.

5. The executive committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a. Recommend to the entire commission changes to the rules or bylaws, changes to this compact legislation, fees paid by compact member states such as annual dues, and any commission compact fee charged to licensees for the privilege to practice;

b. Ensure compact administration services are appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise;

c. Prepare and recommend the budget;

d. Maintain financial records on behalf of the commission;

e. Monitor compact compliance of member states and provide compliance reports to the commission;

f. Establish additional committees as necessary; and

g. Other duties as provided in rules or bylaws.

(e) *Meetings of the commission.* 1. All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under the rule-making provisions in sub. (11).

2. The commission or the executive committee or other committees of the commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the commission or executive committee or other committees of the commission must discuss:

a. Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the compact;

b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;

c. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;

d. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods, services, or real estate;

e. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;

g. Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

h. Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;

i. Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact; or

j. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state statute.

3. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.

4. The commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefore, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(f) *Financing of the commission.* 1. The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

2. The commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources, donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.

3. The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.

4. The commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the commission pledge the credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.

5. The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.

(g) *Qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification.* 1. The members, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for

damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to protect any such person from suit and/or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

2. The commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or her own counsel; and provided further, that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

3. The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

**(10) DATA SYSTEM.** (a) The commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, operation, and utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall submit a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this compact is applicable as required by the rules of the commission, including:

1. Identifying information;
2. Licensure data;
3. Adverse actions against a license or privilege to practice;
4. Nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation;
5. Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for such denial;
6. Current significant investigative information; and
7. Other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact, as determined by the rules of the commission.

(c) Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member state will only be available to other member states.

(d) The commission shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse action taken against a licensee or an individual applying for a license. Adverse action information pertaining to a licensee in any member state will be available to any other member state.

(e) Member states contributing information to the data system may designate information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.

(f) Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from the data system.

**(11) RULE MAKING.** (a) The commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purpose of the compact. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the

event the commission exercises its rule-making authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of the compact, or the powers granted hereunder, then such an action by the commission shall be invalid and have no force or effect.

(b) The commission shall exercise its rule-making powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this subsection and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment.

(c) If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact within 4 years of the date of adoption of the rule, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any member state.

(d) Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the commission.

(e) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the commission, and at least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the commission shall file a notice of proposed rule making:

1. On the website of the commission or other publicly accessible platform; and

2. On the website of each member state professional counseling licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

(f) The notice of proposed rule making shall include:

1. The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule will be considered and voted upon;

2. The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed rule;

3. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and

4. The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.

(g) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.

(h) The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is requested by:

1. At least 25 persons;

2. A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency; or

3. An association having at least 25 members.

(i) If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic means, the commission shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

1. All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the executive director of the commission or other designated member in writing of their desire to appear and testify at the hearing not less than 5 business days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

2. Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.

3. All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording will be made available on request.

4. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings required by this subsection.

(j) Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held,

the commission shall consider all written and oral comments received.

(k) If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties is received, the commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public hearing.

(L) The commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rule-making record and the full text of the rule.

(m) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that the usual rule-making procedures provided in the compact and in this subsection shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to:

1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;
2. Prevent a loss of commission or member state funds;
3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established by federal law or rule; or
4. Protect public health and safety.

(n) The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

**(12) OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT.** (a) *Oversight.* 1. The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government in each member state shall enforce this compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this compact and the rules promulgated hereunder shall have standing as statutory law.

2. All courts shall take judicial notice of the compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of this compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities, or actions of the commission.

3. The commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any such proceeding and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the commission, this compact, or promulgated rules.

(b) *Default, technical assistance, and termination.* 1. If the commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact or the promulgated rules, the commission shall:

- a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the nature of the default, the proposed means of curing the default and/or any other action to be taken by the commission; and
- b. Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.

(c) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the member states, and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by this compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.

(d) Termination of membership in the compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the commission to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and each of the member states.

(e) A state that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

(f) The commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default or that has been terminated from the compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the commission and the defaulting state.

(g) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the commission by petitioning the U.S. district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(h) *Dispute resolution.* 1. Upon request by a member state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact that arise among member states and between member and non-member states.

2. The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

(i) *Enforcement.* 1. The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this compact.

2. By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the U.S. district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices against a member state in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law.

**(13) DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNSELING COMPACT COMMISSION AND ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT.** (a) The compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted into law in the 10th member state. The provisions, which become effective at that time, shall be limited to the powers granted to the commission relating to assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the commission shall meet and exercise rule-making powers necessary to the implementation and administration of the compact.

(b) Any state that joins the compact subsequent to the commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which the compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day the compact becomes law in that state.

(c) Any member state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same.

1. A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until 6 months after enactment of the repealing statute.

2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's professional counseling licensing board to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this act prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

(d) Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any professional counseling licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state

and a non–member state that does not conflict with the provisions of this compact.

(e) This compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this compact shall become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all member states.

**(14) CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.** This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any member state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any member state, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining member states and in full force and effect as to the member state affected as to all severable matters.

**(15) BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS.** (a) A licensee providing professional counseling services in a remote state under the privilege to practice shall adhere to the laws and regulations, including scope of practice, of the remote state.

(b) Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a member state that is not inconsistent with the compact.

(c) Any laws in a member state in conflict with the compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

(d) Any lawful actions of the commission, including all rules and bylaws properly promulgated by the commission, are binding upon the member states.

(e) All permissible agreements between the commission and the member states are binding in accordance with their terms.

(f) In the event any provision of the compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member state, the provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that member state.

**History:** 2023 a. 55.

#### **457.51 Implementation of the counseling compact.**

**(1)** In this section:

(a) “Examining board” means the marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, and social work examining board.

(b) “Privilege to practice” has the meaning given in s. 457.50 (2) (s).

(c) “Professional counselor section” means the professional counselor section of the examining board.

**(2)** The department may impose a fee for an individual to receive a privilege to practice as provided in s. 457.50 (3) (c).

**(3)** The professional counselor section may, by rule, require an individual applying for a license under s. 457.12 (2m) or an individual seeking a privilege to practice under s. 457.12 (3m) to meet a jurisprudence requirement in accordance with s. 457.50 (4) (a) 8., if such a requirement is imposed by the professional counselor section under s. 457.16 in order to obtain a license under s. 457.12 (1m).

**(4)** (a) An individual who is exercising the privilege to practice in this state shall comply with s. 440.03 (13) (am).

(b) Subject to s. 457.50 and any rules promulgated thereunder, ss. 440.20 to 440.22 and the rules promulgated under s. 440.03 (1) shall apply to an individual who is exercising the privilege to practice in this state in the same manner that they apply to holders of licenses issued under subch. I.

**History:** 2023 a. 55.