

# State of Wisconsin



2021 Assembly Bill 86

Date of enactment:  
Date of publication\*:

## 2021 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT to create chapter 461 of the statutes; relating to: providing complementary and alternative health care practitioners with exemptions from practice protection laws, requirements and prohibitions for individuals who provide complementary and alternative health care services, and providing a penalty.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 461 of the statutes is created to read:

### CHAPTER 461

#### COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE PRACTICES

**461.01 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) "Client" means an individual who receives or seeks to receive services from a complementary and alternative health care practitioner.

(2) "Complementary and alternative health care practitioner" means an individual, other than a health care professional acting within the scope of his or her practice, who provides or offers to provide complementary and alternative health care services to a client in exchange for compensation or holds himself or herself out to the public as a provider of complementary and alternative health care services.

(3) "Complementary and alternative health care service" means a health care practice or method of healing therapy or modality other than one that a complementary and alternative health care practitioner is prohibited from providing under s. 461.03 (1), including any of the following:

(a) Acupressure.

- (b) Aromatherapy.
  - (c) Ayurveda.
  - (d) Body work.
  - (e) Cranial sacral therapy.
  - (f) Culturally traditional healing practices.
  - (g) Detoxification practices and therapies.
  - (h) Folk practices.
  - (i) Healing practices utilizing food, food supplements, nutrients, and the physical forces of heat, cold, water, touch, and light.
  - (j) Healing touch.
  - (k) Herbology or herbalism.
  - (L) Homeopathy.
  - (m) Kinesiology.
  - (n) Meditation.
  - (o) Mind-body healing practices.
  - (p) Polarity therapy.
  - (q) Reflexology.
  - (r) Rolfing.
  - (s) Traditional naturopathy.
- (4) "Controlled substance" has the meaning given in s. 961.01 (4).
- (5) "Credential" has the meaning given in s. 440.01 (2) (a).
- (6) "Dangerous drug" means any of the following:
- (a) A prescription drug, as defined in s. 450.01 (20).

\* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."

(b) A drug that is required by federal law to be labeled as a drug that may only be prescribed to an animal.

(7) "Health care professional" has the meaning given for "health care provider" in s. 146.81 (1) (a) to (hp) and also includes a licensed midwife, as defined in s. 440.9805 (2).

**461.02 Exemptions from requirements to hold credentials.** Notwithstanding ss. 256.15 (2), 440.982 (1), 441.06 (4), 441.15 (2), 446.02 (1), 447.03 (1) and (2), 448.03 (1) (a), (b), and (c) and (1m), 448.51 (1), 448.61, 448.76, 448.961 (1) and (2), 449.02 (1), 450.03 (1), 451.04 (1), 454.04 (1), 455.02 (1m), 457.04 (4), (5), (6), and (7), 459.02 (1), 459.24 (1), and 460.02, a complementary and alternative health care practitioner does not violate any of the prohibitions against engaging in a practice without a credential under s. 256.15 (2), 440.982 (1), 441.06 (4), 441.15 (2), 446.02 (1), 447.03 (1) or (2), 448.03 (1) (a), (b), or (c) or (1m), 448.51 (1), 448.61, 448.76, 448.961 (1) or (2), 449.02 (1), 450.03 (1), 451.04 (1), 454.04 (1), 455.02 (1m), 457.04 (4), (5), (6), or (7), 459.02 (1), 459.24 (1), or 460.02 and may provide complementary and alternative health care services unless the complementary and alternative health care practitioner violates s. 461.03 or 461.04.

**461.03 Prohibitions.** (1) A complementary and alternative health care practitioner may not do any of the following:

- (a) Perform surgery.
- (b) Set fractures.
- (c) Puncture the skin, except by pricking a finger for purposes of blood screening.
- (d) Prescribe or administer X-ray services.
- (e) Prescribe or administer a dangerous drug, controlled substance, or device, as defined in s. 450.01 (6), that may be prescribed or administered only by a health care professional.
- (f) Perform a chiropractic adjustment or manipulation of joints or a spine.
- (g) Hold out, state, or imply to a person that he or she is a health care professional.
- (h) Use or assume the title "doctor" or "physician."
- (i) Recommend to a client that he or she discontinue current medical treatment that is prescribed by a health care professional.
- (j) Make a diagnosis of a medical disease or mental disorder. This paragraph does not prohibit a complementary and alternative health care practitioner from responding generally to a client's expressed concerns.

(2) A complementary and alternative health care practitioner may not do any of the following:

- (a) Engage in any of the following:
  1. Sexual contact, as defined in s. 939.22 (34), with a client.
  2. Contact with a client that may be reasonably interpreted by the client as sexual.

3. Verbal behavior that is seductive or sexually demeaning to a client.

4. Sexual exploitation of a client or former client.

(b) Falsely advertise or provide false information about the complementary and alternative health care practitioner's degree, training, experience, or other qualification or about a complementary and alternative health care service.

(c) Violate a law relating to a dangerous drug or a controlled substance.

(d) Release a client's records or information about the client's transactions unless the release is authorized by the client in writing or otherwise provided by law.

(e) Give or receive, directly or indirectly, to or from any other person any fee, commission, rebate, or other form of compensation or anything of value for sending, referring, or otherwise inducing a person to communicate with a complementary and alternative health care practitioner in a professional capacity, or for any complementary and alternative health care service not actually rendered personally by the complementary and alternative health care practitioner.

(3) No person may act as a complementary and alternative health care practitioner if any of the following applies:

- (a) The person is or was a health care professional and had his or her credential revoked or suspended, unless the credential was subsequently reinstated.
- (b) The person was convicted of a felony against a person and has not completed his or her sentence, including any probation, parole, or extended supervision.
- (c) The person was convicted of a felony, the circumstances of which relate to providing health care.
- (d) The person is an individual found incompetent, as defined in s. 54.01 (16).

**461.04 Required disclosures.** (1) A complementary and alternative health care practitioner shall provide to a client all of the following:

- (a) Reasonable notice of a change to complementary and alternative health care services provided.
- (b) Reasonable notice of a change to a charge for a complementary and alternative health care service.
- (c) Complete and current information concerning the complementary and alternative health care practitioner's assessment of the client and the recommended complementary and alternative health care service that is to be provided, including the expected duration of the service and access to the client's records and written information contained in the client's records.

(2) A complementary and alternative health care practitioner shall, before providing a complementary and alternative health care service, disclose to a client in a plainly worded written statement all of the following:

(a) The name, business address, and telephone number of the complementary and alternative health care practitioner.

(b) The fact that the complementary and alternative health care practitioner is not practicing under a health care license, certification, or registration granted by this state.

(c) The nature of the complementary and alternative health care service to be provided.

(d) A list of any degree, training, experience, or other qualification the complementary and alternative health care practitioner has or holds regarding the complementary and alternative health care service to be provided, including the source and duration of the degree, training, experience, or other qualification.

(e) The complementary and alternative health care practitioner's fees per unit of service and the method of billing for such fees.

(f) A statement that the client has a right to reasonable notice of a change to complementary and alternative health care services provided or to a charge for a complementary and alternative health care service.

(g) A statement that the client has the right to complete and current information concerning the complementary and alternative health care practitioner's assessment and recommended complementary and alternative health care service that is to be provided, including the expected duration of the service to be provided and the client's right to be allowed access to the client's records and written information in the client's records.

(h) A statement that the complementary and alternative health care practitioner may not release a client's records or information about the client's transactions unless the release is authorized by the client in writing or otherwise provided by law.

(i) A statement that the client has a right to coordinated transfer if there is a change in the provider of complementary and alternative health care services.

(j) The name, address, and telephone number of the department and a statement that the client may file a complaint with the department regarding conduct that violates this chapter.

(3) A complementary and alternative health care practitioner shall display a written notice containing all of the information that is required under sub. (2) in a prominent location where complementary and alternative health care services are provided. The notice shall be written in not less than 12-point font size, and the complementary and alternative health care provider shall make a reasonable accommodation to disclose the information in the notice to a client who cannot read, who has a communication impairment, or who does not read or speak English or the same language as the complementary and alternative health care practitioner.

(4) (a) A client shall sign a written acknowledgment stating that the client has been provided with the informa-

tion described under subs. (1) and (2) before a complementary and alternative health care practitioner may provide a complementary and alternative health care service to the client for the first time.

(b) If the information that is described under sub. (1) changes after a client signs the written acknowledgment under par. (a), the client shall sign another written acknowledgement stating that the client has been provided with the up-to-date information described under subs. (1) and (2) before a complementary and alternative health care practitioner may provide a complementary and alternative health care service to the client for the first time after the information changes.

(c) The complementary and alternative health care practitioner shall provide a client with a copy of a signed acknowledgement under par. (a) or (b) and shall maintain each signed acknowledgement for at least 2 years.

(5) If a complementary and alternative health care practitioner does not possess a credential, the complementary and alternative health care practitioner shall in each advertisement made for a complementary and alternative health care service disclose that he or she has not been granted a license to practice a licensed health profession in this state.

(6) Subsections (2) to (5) do not apply to an employee of a licensed health care facility or an employee of or a person acting pursuant to the direction of a licensed health professional practicing within the scope of his or her practice.

**461.05 Applicability.** (1) Nothing in this chapter applies to, controls, or prevents any acts or persons that would otherwise already be exempt from professional practice acts.

(2) Nothing in this chapter limits the right of a person to seek relief for negligent or willful harm, or any other relief, against a complementary and alternative health care practitioner.

**461.06 Enforcement.** (1) If it appears upon the complaint of any person to the department that a complementary and alternative health care practitioner is violating this chapter, the department may investigate the alleged violation.

(2) If the department determines that a complementary and alternative health care practitioner has violated this chapter, the department may do any of the following:

(a) Provide a written notice to the complementary and alternative health care practitioner that requests that the complementary and alternative health care practitioner correct the activity that violates this chapter.

(b) For a violation of this chapter other than a violation of s. 461.04, issue a cease and desist order that prohibits the complementary and alternative health care practitioner from engaging in conduct that violates chs. 440 to 480.

(c) For a violation of this chapter other than a violation of s. 461.04, assess against the complementary and

alternative health care practitioner a forfeiture of not more than \$10,000 for each violation.

**SECTION 2. Effective date.**

(1) This act takes effect on January 1, 2022.

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