



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

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Margaret Bergerud, Legislative Counsel
Division of Legal and Research Affairs
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Greetings,

The following responses were developed and discussed by the Board of Professional Counselors at their meeting on February 23-24, 2023.

1. *AS 08.02.110(a) lists professional designation requirements for certain professions, including professional counselors licensed under AS 08.29. Would you like associate counselors to be included in that list?*
If the intended statute is AS 08.02.010(a), then yes.
2. *AS 08.29.100 makes it a crime for people not licensed under AS 08.29 to profess to be or use language that may cause a reasonable person to confuse them for a licensed professional counselor, a professional counselor, or a licensed counselor. Would you like to add associate counselors to that list?*
Yes.
3. *Section 2, amending AS 08.29.110(a)(6), is worded slightly differently than requested for ease of reading and to reduce redundancy. Please let us know if you would like any changes.*
No other changes are necessary.
4. *AS 08.29.120 allows the Board of Professional Counselors (board) to license professional counselors if they are already licensed in another jurisdiction with substantially similar or higher licensure requirements than Alaska. Would you like to extend that type of licensure to associate counselors?*
Yes.
5. *AS 08.29.130 allows the board to grant licenses to foreign-educated applicants. As written, this may also apply to associate counselor licenses. Would you like to amend AS 08.29.130 to limit it to only apply to professional counselor licenses?*

No, this should apply to both license types.

6. *AS 08.29.140 requires continuing education requirements for license renewal, as set by the board. Would you like to add any differing requirements between the license types?*

Yes, there will be different renewal requirements. The associate counselor license is intended to be issued for a 3-year period with extensions that may be granted at the board's discretion. This license is intended to be a pathway to full licensure as a professional counselor and not a license to be held in perpetuity.

7. *AS 08.29.220 requires professional counselors to provide certain disclosures to clients prior to beginning services. Would you like to require the same of associate counselors?*

Yes, informed consent and disclosures are to be required of associate counselors.

8. *AS 08.29.400(a)(4) and (8) lists grounds for denial of a license or disciplinary sanctions that apply specifically to professional counselors. Would you like those to apply to associate counselors too?*

Yes.

9. *AS 08.86.180(d) allows certain professions, including professional counselors, to describe their offered services using the words "psychoanalysis," "psychoanalyst," "psychotherapy," "psychotherapist," or "psychotherapeutic." Would you like to allow associate counselors to do the same?*

No, associate counselors should not be allowed to use these terms.

10. *AS 18.29.190 lists professional counselors as "tier II health care professionals" in the Health Care Professionals Workforce Enhancement Program. Would you like associate counselors to also be classified as "tier II health care professionals"?*

No, they should be classified as tier III professionals.

11. *AS 21.36.090 prohibits unfair discrimination against professionals providing certain services, including professional counselors. Would you like to include associate counselors among those professions?*

No, as the list of providers is comprised of independently practicing professionals.

12. *Would you like to add associate counselors to the list of qualified mental health professionals listed under AS 47.90.915(16)?*

No, they will be covered under section (C) as they are "working under the supervision of a type of licensee listed in this paragraph."

If further clarification is required or if there are additional questions for the board, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Logan Bugayong
Occupational Licensing Examiner
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing