

1 AN ACT relating to alcohol and drug counselors.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 309.0836 is amended to read as follows:

4 **(1)** An applicant for registration as a temporary alcohol and drug peer support specialist
5 shall pay the board an initial fee for registration, and shall:

6 **(a)**~~[(1)]~~ Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;

7 **(b)**~~[(2)]~~ Have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent;

8 **(c)**~~[(3)]~~ Have completed at least forty (40) classroom hours of board-approved
9 curriculum;

10 **(d)**~~[(4)]~~ **Have a peer support specialist supervisory agreement signed by the**
11 **applicant and the applicant's board-approved supervisor**~~Have passed a~~
12 ~~written examination that has been approved by the board;~~

13 **(e)**~~[(5)]~~ Have signed an agreement to abide by the standards of practice and code
14 of ethics approved by the board;

15 **(f)**~~[(6)]~~ Attest to being in recovery for a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive
16 months immediately preceding the date of registration from a substance-
17 related disorder;

18 **(g)**~~[(7)]~~ Have completed at least:

19 **1.**~~[(a)]~~ Sixteen (16) hours of ethics training;

20 **2.**~~[(b)]~~ Three (3) hours of domestic violence training;

21 **3.**~~[(c)]~~ Two (2) hours of training in the transmission, control, treatment,
22 and prevention of the human immunodeficiency virus;

23 **4.**~~[(d)]~~ Ten (10) hours of advocacy training;

24 **5.**~~[(e)]~~ Ten (10) hours of training in mentoring and education; and

25 **6.**~~[(f)]~~ Ten (10) hours of training in recovery support;

26 ~~[(8)] Have submitted two (2) letters of reference from certified alcohol and drug~~
27 ~~counselors or licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselors;~~

- 1 ~~(h)~~~~(9)~~ Live or work a majority of the time in Kentucky; and
- 2 ~~(i)~~~~(10)~~ Have complied with the requirements for the training program in suicide
- 3 assessment, treatment, and management in KRS 210.366 and any
- 4 administrative regulations promulgated thereunder.

5 **(2) (a) A temporary alcohol and drug peer support license shall only be valid for a**

6 **maximum period of nine (9) months from the date of issuance.**

7 **(b) Upon expiration of the nine (9) months, the individual shall seek**

8 **registration as an alcohol and drug peer support specialist or shall no**

9 **longer be permitted to provide reimbursable peer support services.**

10 ➔Section 2. KRS 222.233 is amended to read as follows:

11 The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall promulgate administrative regulations

12 in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to:

13 (1) (a) Until January 1, 2026, require that licensed alcohol and other drug treatment

14 entities and behavioral health service organizations only employ a temporary

15 alcohol and drug peer support specialist or alcohol and drug peer support

16 specialist who is registered under KRS Chapter 309 or a temporary alcohol

17 and drug peer support specialist or alcohol and drug peer support specialist

18 who meets the requirements of applicable administrative regulations in effect

19 on July 15, 2024, or any applicable administrative regulations promulgated

20 thereafter.

21 (b) Beginning January 1, 2026, require that licensed alcohol and other drug

22 treatment entities and behavioral health service organizations only employ a

23 temporary alcohol and drug peer support specialist or alcohol and drug peer

24 support specialist who is registered under KRS Chapter 309;

25 ~~(2) [Permit a registered temporary alcohol and drug peer support specialist to provide~~

26 ~~the same services and be reimbursed at the same rates as a registered alcohol and~~

27 ~~drug peer support specialist;~~

1 ~~(3) — Remove any limits on the maximum number of hours of direct client care that may~~
2 ~~be provided by a registered alcohol and drug peer support specialist;~~

3 ~~(4) —~~ Require that a temporary certified alcohol and drug counselor under the clinical
4 supervision of a certified alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed alcohol and drug
5 counselor, or a licensed clinical alcohol or drug counselor be a reimbursable service
6 provider in alcohol and other drug treatment entities and behavioral health service
7 organizations;

8 ~~(3)~~~~(5)~~ Permit a licensed alcohol and drug counselor to provide the same services and
9 be reimbursed at the same rates as a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor in
10 licensed alcohol and other drug treatment entities and behavioral health service
11 organizations;

12 ~~(4)~~~~(6)~~ Permit the qualifications for a case manager for an individual with mental or
13 substance use disorder to be a bachelor's degree or higher in any field of study and
14 set forth training and supervision requirements to substitute for required work
15 experience;

16 ~~(5)~~~~(7)~~ Require that a community support associate approved by the Department for
17 Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities to be a reimbursable
18 service provider in licensed alcohol and other drug treatment entities and behavioral
19 health service organizations;~~and~~

20 ~~(6)~~~~(8)~~ Permit **a registered** peer support specialists to provide services to groups of
21 the same size as other licensed clinical professionals in a licensed alcohol and other
22 drug treatment entities and behavioral health service organizations; **and**

23 **(7) Require a temporary peer support specialist to be limited to facilitating groups**
24 **with no more than eight (8) participants.**