

SENATE BILL NO. 2049

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Human Services Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 10 of section 25-03.1-02 and section
2 32-03-48 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to inclusion of marriage and family
3 therapists in definitions of mental health professionals.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 10 of section 25-03.1-02 of the North Dakota
6 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 10. "Mental health professional" means:

- 8 a. A psychologist with at least a master's degree who has been either licensed or
9 approved for exemption by the North Dakota board of psychology examiners.
- 10 b. A social worker with a master's degree in social work from an accredited
11 program.
- 12 c. A registered nurse with a master's degree in psychiatric and mental health
13 nursing from an accredited program.
- 14 d. A registered nurse with a minimum of two years of psychiatric clinical experience
15 under the supervision of a registered nurse as defined by subdivision c or of an
16 expert examiner.
- 17 e. A licensed addiction counselor.
- 18 f. A licensed professional counselor with a master's degree in counseling from an
19 accredited program who has either successfully completed the advanced training
20 beyond the master's degree as required by the national academy of mental
21 health counselors or a minimum of two years of clinical experience in a mental
22 health agency or setting under the supervision of a psychiatrist or psychologist.
- 23 g. A licensed marriage and family therapist.

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 32-03-48 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **32-03-48. Definitions.**

4 As used in sections 32-03-48 through 32-03-50, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 5 1. "Critical incident" means any event encountered by emergency service personnel
6 within the scope of their employment which causes them to experience unusually
7 strong emotional reactions that have the potential to interfere with their ability to
8 perform their jobs or that may interfere with their personal lives.
- 9 2. "Critical incident stress debriefing" means the process of resolving the effects of
10 critical incidents on emergency service personnel through a structured meeting with
11 both psychological and educational components according to the model approved by
12 the state department of health.
- 13 3. "Critical incident stress management team" means those volunteers who are
14 recognized by the state department of health as members of an organized group that
15 provides critical incident stress debriefing services on behalf of the state.
- 16 4. "Emergency service personnel" means individuals who provide emergency services to
17 persons requiring medical aid, firefighting services, law enforcement assistance, or
18 other emergency assistance. The term includes law enforcement officers, firefighters,
19 rescue personnel, ambulance personnel, quick response personnel, emergency
20 service dispatchers, nurses, physicians, and other emergency care providers.
- 21 5. "Mental health personnel" means psychiatrists, licensed psychologists, licensed social
22 workers, licensed mental health counselors, nurses, members of the clergy, licensed
23 marriage and family therapists, and other individuals approved by the state
24 department of health to function as members of a critical incident stress management
25 team, who have completed appropriate training as approved by the department.
- 26 6. "Peer support personnel" means those members of a critical incident stress
27 management team who are emergency service personnel and who have completed
28 appropriate training approved by the state department of health.