



Notice of Proposed Changes in the Regulations of the Alaska Board of Professional Counselors

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

April 2026

1. What is the purpose of the proposed regulations? What will these regulations do?

12 AAC 62.145. Associate counselor license These new regulations are proposed to be added to create regulations and requirements for initial licensure for the new associate counselor license type that was created by HB 126.

12 AAC 62.200. Approved counselor supervisor certification The changes to this section are proposed to add requirements for an approved counselor supervisor certification. The majority of these requirements were previously written in statute, and have been repealed from statutes via HB 126. The requirements are now being added into regulation, along with additional requirements and clarifications, including reasons for denial of a certification.

12 AAC 62.220. Supervised experience The changes to this section are proposed to update verbiage in accordance with HB 126, and to add clarification to regulations that supervision hours must be earned only while licensed as an associate counselor after October 31, 2026.

12 AAC 62.225. Supervision plan These new regulations are proposed to be added to create requirements for the supervision plan. These regulations will provide guidance supervisors and supervisees, and will provide a process and timelines for beginning supervision, changing supervisors, and more.

12 AAC 62.300. License and certification renewal The changes proposed to be added to this section will clarify that renewal will be required for professional counselor licenses, associate counselor licenses, and approved counselor supervisor certifications. Approved counselor supervisor certifications were previously not required to be renewed.

12 AAC 62.340. License and certification reinstatement The changes proposed in this section will delegate authority for reinstatement to be approved by the department. This will streamline the process and allow for faster processing. These changes will also amend existing requirements for reinstatement, and will create new requirements for reinstatements for approved counselor supervisor certifications.

12 AAC 62.350. Failure to meet continuing education requirements The proposed change for this section will update the definition for active duty personnel to include those in the Space Force.

12 AAC 62.990. Definitions This change is proposed to add a definition for the term “competency” for additional clarity throughout the regulations.

2. Will this affect current LPC-S (board approved supervisor) license holders?

Yes. The new associate counselor license type must be supervised by someone with the new regulated approved counselor supervisor certification.

3. Are current supervisees grandfathered in? If not, when is the start date for all people who could be licensed as associate clinicians to complete their postgraduate supervision hours?

Postgraduate supervision earned in Alaska prior to October 31, 2026 will still be counted toward the total required supervision hours for licensure if accrued with an Approved Counselor Supervisor. After October 31, 2026, a supervisee will be required to have an active Associate Counselor license and be under the supervision of an Approved Counselor Supervisor to accrue hours in Alaska to count toward the total hours required for licensure.

To note, there is currently no way to count supervision hours accrued in a different state toward Alaska licensure, but the new regulations will allow applicants to count supervision accrued in another jurisdiction with substantially similar requirements as long as the experience is verified on a form provided by the department.

4. Will those with a current LPC-S (board approved supervisor) license have to start from scratch and reapply for a new board approved supervisor license, or will their perpetual license be given an expiration date?

After the regulations go into effect, a licensee with an existing LPC-S license will have an expiration date of 10/31/2027 added to their existing license record. The licensee will not need to apply for a new LPC-S license, they would then only need to renew their existing LPC-S license.

5. What are the costs to comply with the proposed regulations?

Estimated annual cost to comply with the proposed action to:

A private person: \$200 associate counselor application fee; \$150 associate counselor initial license fee; \$150 associate counselor renewal fee; \$200 approved counselor supervisor initial certification fee; \$200 approved counselor supervisor renewal fee.

Another state agency: None known.

A municipality: None known.

6. What are the positive and negative consequences of the regulations?

This will have a positive impact on new clinicians entering the field to streamline the process for licensure, and will provide more guidance and oversight for that process.

These changes will create a streamlined process for those in supervision, and will provide support for the supervisor.

There are no negative consequences to the proposed changes other than the fees required. However, per AS 08.01.065, the Department must establish fee levels so that the total amount of fees collected for an occupation approximately equals the actual regulatory costs for the occupation. Therefore, these fees are necessary.

7. When will the regulations be effective?

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration. The Board may adopt the regulation as written/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Board action, the adopted regulations go to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the Lt. Governor for filing. Regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.