



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. David Brown
Director
Virginia Department of Health Professions

FROM: James E. Rutkowski
Senior Assistant Attorney General

DATE: September 2, 2026

SUBJECT: *Regulations Governing the Practice of Professional Counseling; Regulations Governing the Certification of Substance Abuse Counselors and Substance Abuse Counseling Assistants; Regulations Governing the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy; Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners*
18VAC115-20; 18VAC115-30; 18VAC115-50; 18VAC115-60;

I have reviewed the proposed amendments to the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Professional Counseling*, 18VAC115-20, the *Regulations Governing the Certification of Substance Abuse Counselors and Substance Abuse Counseling Assistants*, 18VAC115-30, the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy*, 18VAC115-50, and the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment*, 18VAC110-60, that were adopted by the Board of Counseling on July 17, 2026. The Board has the authority to adopt these regulations under Code § 54.1-2400. The proposed amendments are constitutional and do not conflict with existing federal or state laws or regulations. Va. Code § 54.1-2409.5 remains in effect.