

TITLE 3. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
SUBTITLE I. GENERAL
CHAPTER 12. HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS
UNIT A. GENERAL

SUBCHAPTER I. DEFINITIONS; SCOPE

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SUBCHAPTER I. DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE

§ 3-1201.01. General definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, the term:

(1) "Board" means the Board of Chiropractic, the Board of Dentistry, the Board of Dietetics and Nutrition, the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, the Board of Medicine, the Board of Nursing, the Board of Nursing Home Administration, the Board of Occupational Therapy, the Board of Optometry, the Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Physical Therapy, the Board of Podiatry, the Board of Professional Counseling, the Board of Psychology, the Board of Respiratory Care, or the Board of Social Work, established by this chapter, as the context requires.

(2) "Collaboration" means the process in which health professionals jointly contribute to the health care of patients with each collaborator performing actions he or she is licensed or otherwise authorized to perform pursuant to this chapter.

(A)-(C) Repealed.

(3) "Attorney General" means the Attorney General of the District of Columbia.

(4) "Council" means the Council of the District of Columbia.

(5) "Day" means calendar day unless otherwise specified in this chapter.

(6) "District" means the District of Columbia.

(7) "Health occupation" means a practice that is regulated under the authority of this chapter.

(8) "Health professional" means a person licensed under this chapter or permitted by this chapter to practice a health occupation in the District.

(9) "Impaired health professional" means a health professional who is unable to perform his or her professional responsibilities reliably due to a mental or physical disorder, excessive use of alcohol, or habitual use of any narcotic or controlled substance or any other drug in excess of therapeutic amounts or without valid medical indication.

(10) "Mayor" means the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

(11) "Person" means an individual, corporation, trustee, receiver, guardian, representative, firm, partnership, society, school, or other entity.

(12) [Repealed].

(13) "State" means any of the several states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or possession of the United States.

(14) "Superior Court" means the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

§ 3-1201.02. Definitions of Health Occupations

For the purposes of this chapter, the term:

(11) (A) "Practice of pharmacy" means the interpretation and evaluation of prescription orders; the compounding, dispensing, and labeling of drugs and devices, and the maintenance of proper records therefor; the responsibility of advising, where regulated or otherwise necessary, of therapeutic values and content, hazards, and use of drugs and devices; and the offering or performance of those acts, services, operations, and transactions necessary in the conduct, operation, management, and control of a pharmacy.

(B) Within the meaning of this paragraph, the term:

(i) "Pharmacy" means any establishment or institution, or any part thereof, where the practice of pharmacy is conducted; drugs are compounded or dispensed, offered for sale, given away, or displayed for sale at retail; or prescriptions are compounded or dispensed.

(ii) "Prescription" means any order for a drug, medicinal chemical, or combination or mixtures thereof, or for a medically prescribed medical device, in writing, dated and

signed by an authorized health professional, or given orally to a pharmacist by an authorized health professional or the person's authorized agent and immediately reduced to writing by the pharmacist or pharmacy intern, specifying the address of the person for whom the drug or device is ordered and directions for use to be placed on the label.

§ 3-1201.03. Scope of Chapter

(a) This chapter does not limit the right of an individual to practice a health occupation that he or she is otherwise authorized to practice under this chapter, nor does it limit the right of an individual to practice any other profession that he or she is authorized to practice under the laws of the District.

(b) The practices of health occupations regulated by this chapter are not intended to be mutually exclusive.

(c) This chapter shall not be construed to prohibit the practice of a health occupation by an individual enrolled in a recognized school or college as a candidate for a degree or certificate in a health occupation, or enrolled in a recognized postgraduate training program provided that the practice is:

(1) Performed as a part of the individual's course of instruction;

(2) Under the supervision of a health professional who is either licensed to practice in the District or qualified as a teacher of the practice of the health occupation by the board charged with the regulation of the health occupation;

(3) Performed at a hospital, nursing home, or health facility operated by the District or federal government, a health education center, or other health-care facility considered appropriate by the school or college; and

(4) Performed in accordance with procedures established by the board charged with the regulation of the health occupation.

(d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require licensure for or to otherwise regulate, restrict, or prohibit individuals from engaging in the practices, services, or activities set forth in the paragraphs of this subsection if the individuals do not hold themselves out, by title, description of services, or otherwise, to be practicing any of the health occupations regulated by this chapter. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as exempting any of the following categories from other applicable laws and regulations of the District or federal government:

- (1) Any minister, priest, rabbi, officer, or agent of any religious body or any practitioner of any religious belief engaging in prayer or any other religious practice or nursing practiced solely in accordance with the religious tenets of any church for the purpose of fostering the physical, mental, or spiritual well-being of any person;
 - (2) Any person engaged in the care of a friend or member of the family, including the domestic administration of family remedies, or the care of the sick by domestic servants, housekeepers, companions, or household aids of any type, whether employed regularly or because of an emergency or illness, or other volunteers;
 - (3) Any individual engaged in the lawful practice of audiology, speech pathology, X-ray technology, laboratory technology, or respiratory therapy;
 - (4) An orthotist or prosthetist engaged in fitting, making, or applying splints or other orthotic or prosthetic devices;
 - (5) Any individual engaged in the practice of cosmetology, the practice of nontherapeutic massage, or the operation of a health club;
 - (6) Any individual engaged in the commercial sale or fitting of shoes or foot appliances; or
 - (7) Marriage and family therapists, marriage counselors, art therapists, drama therapists, attorneys, or other professionals working within the standards and ethics of their respective professions.
- (e) This chapter shall not be construed to prohibit the practice of a health occupation by an individual who has filed an initial application for licensure in the health occupation and is awaiting action on that initial application, provided the practice is performed:
- (1) Under the supervision of a health professional licensed in the District;
 - (2) At a hospital, nursing home, health facility operated by the District or federal government, or other health care facility considered appropriate by the Board; and
 - (3) In accordance with any other requirements established by the Mayor.

§ 3-1201.04. Persons licensed under prior law

- (a) Except as expressly provided to the contrary in this chapter, any person licensed, registered, or certified by any agency of the District established or continued by any statute amended, repealed, or superseded by this act is considered for all purposes to be licensed, registered, or

certified by the appropriate health occupations board established under this chapter for the duration of the term for which the license, registration, or certification was issued, and may renew that authorization in accordance with the appropriate renewal provisions of this chapter.

(b) Except as provided to the contrary in this chapter, an individual who was originally licensed, registered, or certified under a provision of law that has been deleted by this act continues to meet the education and experience requirements as if that provision had not been deleted.

(c) Each employee of the Commission on Mental Health Services who was employed at St. Elizabeths Hospital prior to October 1, 1987, and who accepted employment with the District government on October 1, 1987, without a break in service, shall, within 27 months of appointment by the District government, meet all licensure requirements. If the employee does not meet all licensure requirements, the employee shall be issued a limited license subject to the provisions, limitations, conditions, or restrictions that shall be determined by the appropriate board or commission. The limited license shall not exceed the term of employment with the Commission on Mental Health Services.