



## New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS DIVISION

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# *New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board*

## **Policy Memorandum**

October 21, 2016

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New Mexico has four tiers of drug and alcohol counselors:

- Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (LADAC)
- Licensed Substance Abuse Associate (LSAA)
  - Tier 1: Associate’s Degree
  - Tier 2: Bachelor’s Degree
  - Tier 3: Master’s Degree

### **Scope of Practice for an LSAA as defined in 61-9A-5 (G)**

It is the official policy of this Board that an individual who holds an LSAA issued by this body is able to provide one-on-one counseling and group process services to clients without a supervisor in the room.

The Counseling and Therapy Practice Board licenses counselors and therapists in New Mexico, not observers or interns. Therefore, when somebody is licensed as an LSAA, it is considered a counseling license and gives that licensee the ability to provide one-on-one services to clients.

The license IS a restricted license, however, and the licensee MUST have a supervisor who directs that individual’s work and ensures the quality of the services provided to clients. The licensee CANNOT work without a clinical supervisor. There are several ways to provide clinical supervision within the counseling and behavioral health industry. These methods include regular case reviews, audiotape reviews, videotape reviews, and direct observation.

It is also the position of this Board that one cannot effectively supervise without some direct observation, especially early on in the development of the counselor. However, direct observation is not the sole method of clinical supervision and direct observation is NOT a limitation of the LSAA scope of practice.

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