

CHAPTER 32

PEER SUPPORT GROUP COUNSELORS AND OFFICERS — PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

S.F. 267

AN ACT relating to privileged communications between certain peer support group counselors and officers.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 622.10, Code 2015, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 9. *a.* A peer support group counselor who obtains information from an officer by reason of the counselor's capacity as a peer support group counselor shall not be allowed, in giving testimony, to disclose any confidential communication properly entrusted to the counselor by the officer while receiving counseling.

b. The prohibition in [this subsection](#) does not apply where the officer has consented to the disclosure of the information specified in paragraph "a" or where the peer support group counselor was an initial responding officer, a witness, or a party to the incident which prompted the delivery of peer support group counseling services to the officer.

c. For purposes of [this subsection](#):

(1) "*Officer*" means a certified law enforcement officer, fire fighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic, corrections officer, detention officer, jailer, probation or parole officer, communications officer, dispatcher, emergency management coordinator under [chapter 29C](#), or any other law enforcement officer certified by the Iowa law enforcement academy and employed by a city, county, or state agency.

(2) "*Peer support group counselor*" means a law enforcement officer, fire fighter, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency or fire department, or a nonemployee counselor who has been designated as a peer support group counselor by a sheriff, police chief, fire chief, or department head of a law enforcement agency, fire department, or emergency medical services agency and who has received training to provide emotional and moral support and counseling to an officer who needs those services as a result of an incident in which the officer was involved while acting in the officer's official capacity.

Approved April 14, 2015