

STATE OF NEW YORK

6709

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 5, 2023

Introduced by Sen. SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the civil practice law and rules, in relation to providing a testimonial privilege to critical incident stress management/crisis response/peer support team members concerning communications made during critical incident stress management/crisis response services

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a new
2 section 4508-a to read as follows:

3 § 4508-a. Critical incident stress management/crisis response/peer
4 support team member. (a) Definitions. As used in this section the
5 following terms shall have the following meanings:

6 1. "Emergency services provider" means any individual working or
7 volunteering in the following service capacities; law enforcement, fire-
8 fighting, emergency medical services, communications/dispatch services,
9 public safety, disaster/emergency managers and disaster responders.

10 2. "Critical incident stress management/crisis response services/peer
11 support" means contact with a trained member of an organized emergency
12 response team who provides intervention, support, consultation, risk
13 assessment, referral and follow-up services.

14 3. "A trained member" means an individual who received specialized
15 training in critical incident stress management/crisis response/peer
16 support and offers services as part of an organized emergency response
17 team.

18 4. "Critical incident stress management/crisis response/peer support"
19 means a comprehensive, integrated, strategic and multi-component
20 approach to manage critical incident stress during and following inci-
21 dents and/or for any issue that may impact work and family life. Crit-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 ical incident stress management/crisis response/peer support services
2 may include:

3 (A) Pre-incident education and preparation;

4 (B) Assessment;

5 (C) Crisis intervention;

6 (D) Strategic planning;

7 (E) Large group interventions;

8 (F) Small group interventions;

9 (G) One-on-one assistance;

10 (H) Family critical incident stress management;

11 (I) Organizational, community intervention, and consultation;

12 (J) Pastoral crisis intervention; and

13 (K) Follow-up and referral.

14 (b) Confidential information privileged. A trained member who received
15 specialized training in critical incident stress management/crisis
16 response/peer support as a member of an organized emergency response
17 team shall not be required to disclose oral or written communication,
18 notes, records or reports made by an individual while receiving such
19 services or be required to disclose his/her communications with the
20 individual in need of critical incident stress management/crisis
21 response/peer support services except:

22 1. Where the individual who received critical incident stress
23 management/crisis response services/peer support gives express consent
24 to the testimony;

25 2. The communication reveals the contemplation of a crime or admission
26 of criminal conduct;

27 3. The individual represents harm to self or others; or

28 4. The individual is suspected of child abuse or is at risk for child
29 abuse.

30 (c) The division of criminal justice services shall promulgate rules
31 and regulations necessary to effectuate this section and shall be
32 empowered to identify minimum certifications required of trained
33 members, approved training courses, record keeping requirements, and
34 retraining requirements.

35 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.