

## A quick reference guide to AB 1367 (DeSaulnier)

# Frequently Asked Questions About the California Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors Licensing Act

---

VERSION:  
MARCH 2007

CONTACT: RHONDA MESSAMORE  
(916)368-9412

### 1. What does the bill do and why do we need it?

AB 1367 creates licensure for chemical dependency counselors similar to what 24 other states currently have. It is necessary because in California persons with no education, training or experience are allowed to treat the life threatening disease of addiction.

### 2. How will this bill help consumers?

When passed, consumers will be able to easily identify counselors who have proven skills and competencies and will be afforded a means to lodge complaints against persons who would harm them or their loved ones.

### 3. Won't licensure reduce the number of counselors available and therefore make treatment harder to get?

No. Only counselors who wish to use the title "Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor" are required to obtain the license, therefore no one is removed from their employment. Besides, creating a licensure category will allow dedicated professionals, who often leave addiction counseling to seek licensure by another board, to establish themselves in this specialty thereby increasing the number of counselors in "private practice."

### 4. Won't licensure drive wages up and put treatment programs out of business?

No. Licensed and certified treatment programs are excluded from the law specifically. No program is required to hire a licensed counselor by this law. Creating a new "private practice" category will encourage competition in the private sector, and at the same time lower waiting times for addicts seeking care in publicly funded programs.

CONTINUED→→

- > **Questions about AB 1367?**   > **Need information about the bill's sponsor, CAADAC?**   > **Want to interview a CAADAC Board Member in your area about the bill?**

VISIT CAADAC ON THE WEB AT: CAADAC.ORG

# CAADAC

The California  
Association of  
Alcoholism & Drug  
Abuse Counselors



---

**CAADAC:**

*Higher standards for  
greater avenues of recovery*

---

CAADAC

The California Association of  
Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Counselors

3400 Bradshaw Road, Suite A-5  
Sacramento, CA 95827

Phone: 916-368-9412

Fax: 916-368-9424

E-mail: [counselorsl@caadac.org](mailto:counselorsl@caadac.org)

Web Site: [caadac.org](http://caadac.org)

## A quick reference guide to AB 1367 (DeSaulnier)

### FAQs Continued-

---

**5. The Department of Alcoholism and Drug Programs licenses programs already. Isn't that enough consumer protection?**

No. The Department can only address consumer complaints within licensed and certified facilities given current statute. There is zero regulation in the private sector.

**6. Won't licensure make it so that experienced, seasoned counselors who don't meet the standard will no longer be able to help addicts achieve recovery?**

No. The bill makes provisions to include experienced counselors under its "grandparent" provision.

**7. There are plenty of licensed people abusing clients out there. How is another license going to protect anyone?**

AB 1376 requires a high level of supervised experiential hours, creating a built in mechanism for identifying would-be abusers before they enter the field. Giving the Department of Consumer Affairs the ability to aide in the prosecution of those who break the bill's Code of Ethics, gives consumers a means of ending the careers of any who choose to do so.

**8. Given the state's budget woes, won't a new licensure program just take money away from treatment?**

Never! State licensure programs for professionals are handled by the Department of Consumer Affairs, not the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. Their budgets are completely separate. In addition, the bill includes the collection of licensure fees that cover its costs.

**9. Does the bill only license CAADAC certified counselors and what happens to me if I am not CAADAC certified when it becomes law?**

No! The intention of the bill is to recognize the hard work that all counselors have done to provide safe and effective treatment for addicts. Because California still has an unregulated private practice market, many counselors choose different paths to arrive at competency. The entire premise of the legislation is to improve access to private practitioners. Many venues for proving competency are included in the bill. Only future counselors will be required to meet the internationally recognized standard of the CAADAC certificate (and they will be given ample time to achieve this goal before the requirement goes into effect).

- > **Questions about AB 1367?**      > **Need information about the bill's sponsor, CAADAC?**      > **Want to interview a CAADAC Board Member in your area about the bill?**

VISIT CAADAC ON THE WEB AT: CAADAC.ORG

# CAADAC

The California  
Association of  
Alcoholism & Drug  
Abuse Counselors



---

**CAADAC:**

*Higher standards for  
greater avenues of recovery*

---

CAADAC

The California Association of  
Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Counselors

3400 Bradshaw Road, Suite A-5  
Sacramento, CA 95827

Phone: 916-368-9412

Fax: 916-368-9424

E-mail: [counselors@caadac.org](mailto:counselors@caadac.org)

Web Site: [caadac.org](http://caadac.org)