

PART TTTT

Sec. TTTT-1. 34-B MRSA §1218-A, is enacted to read:

§1218-A. Baxter Counseling Services Program

The Baxter Counseling Services Program referred to in this section as “the program” is established within the department to facilitate the delivery of counseling services for eligible former students of the Maine School for the Deaf or the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf without cost to individuals. Services facilitated under this program will be limited to therapeutic counseling services for former eligible students. The department shall ensure that counseling services provided under this program are reimbursed under the MaineCare program to the maximum extent possible.

1. Eligibility Established. Eligibility for counseling services under the program will be limited to individuals who: (1) were former students of the Maine School for the Deaf or the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf ~~whose alleged abused occurred~~ who graduated prior to ~~July~~ January 1, 2001, ~~and who applied for Baxter Compensation Authority compensation by March 31, 2006 pursuant to 5 M.R.S. Ch. 601 (P.L. 2001, ch. 439, § T5), repealed July 1, 2007;~~ or (2) were former students of the Maine School for the Deaf or the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf ~~who did not apply for Baxter Compensation Authority compensation but who~~ have received or continue to receive services from the department.

2. Facilitation of Counseling Services. The department shall facilitate services through contracts with mental health providers who specialize in services for deaf, hard of hearing, and late deafened, ~~and who are enrolled as a MaineCare provider.~~ The department ~~may~~ shall provide general fund contracts for services for individuals who do not receive MaineCare benefits ~~uninsured individuals~~ as the payer of last resort. ~~The department shall assist providers navigating reimbursement under the MaineCare program. The department shall monitor contracts to ensure compliance related to program eligibility, MaineCare policy and department licensure requirements.~~

3. Statutory Authority. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, this statute shall take precedence and control eligibility and services available to certain eligible former students of the Maine School for the Deaf or the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf. ~~2001 P&S Law ch.12 is repealed.~~

PART TTTT SUMMARY

This Part codifies the Baxter Counseling Services Program to facilitate the delivery of counseling services for eligible former students of the Maine School for the Deaf or the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and shall ensure that counseling services provided under this program are reimbursed under the MaineCare program to the maximum extent possible.