

PUBLICATION IN *TEXAS REGISTER*

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (Commission) adopts new 37 Texas Administrative Code §221.12, Mental Health Telecommunicator Proficiency, without changes to the proposed text as published in the March 13, 2026 issue of the *Texas Register* (51 TexReg 1583). The rule will not be republished.

The adopted new rule establishes a mental health proficiency certificate for telecommunicators. This proficiency certificate is similar in function to the mental health officer proficiency certificate for peace officers, county jailers, and justices of the peace from 37 Texas Administrative Code §221.11, Mental Health Officer Proficiency. This optional certificate will provide telecommunicators with relevant mental health training to better perform their job duties and responsibilities.

The public comment period began on March 13, 2026, and ended on April 16, 2026, at the conclusion of the public meeting of the Commission. One public comment from the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute was received in support of adoption of the new rule as proposed.

The new rule is adopted pursuant to Texas Occupations Code §1701.151, General Powers of Commission; Rulemaking Authority. Texas Occupations Code §1701.151 authorizes the Commission to adopt rules for the administration of Occupations Code Chapter 1701 and to establish minimum standards relating to the competence and reliability, including the education, training, physical, and mental standards, for licensing as an officer, county jailer, or telecommunicator.

The new rule as adopted affects or implements Texas Occupations Code §1701.151, General Powers of Commission; Rulemaking Authority. No other code, article, or statute is affected by this proposal.

The adopted new rule has been reviewed by legal counsel and found to be a valid exercise of the Commission's legal authority.

§221.12. Mental Health Telecommunicator Proficiency.

(a) To qualify for a mental health telecommunicator proficiency certificate, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- (1) be currently appointed as a telecommunicator;
- (2) have at least two years of experience as a telecommunicator;
- (3) have never had a license or certificate issued by the commission suspended or revoked;
- (4) have met the continuing education requirements for the previous training unit; and
- (5) successfully complete at least 16 hours of commission-approved instruction covering crisis triage, de-escalation, referral protocols and coordination with 988, telecommunicator wellness, and documentation practices.

(b) The effective date of this section is June 1, 2026.