

REFERENCE TITLE: **traumatic event counseling**

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

## **SB 1216**

Introduced by  
Senator Payne

### **AN ACT**

AMENDING SECTION 38-672, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; REPEALING LAWS 2016, CHAPTER 240, SECTION 2, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2022, CHAPTER 377, SECTION 2; REPEALING LAWS 2018, CHAPTER 259, SECTION 3, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2022, CHAPTER 377, SECTION 3; RELATING TO TRAUMATIC EVENT COUNSELING.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section. 1. Section 38-672, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 38-672. Traumatic event counseling for public safety  
5 employees; report; exceptions; definitions

6 A. Notwithstanding any other law, this state or a political  
7 subdivision of this state shall establish a program to provide public  
8 safety employees who are exposed to any one of the following events while  
9 in the course of duty up to twelve visits of licensed counseling, which  
10 may be provided through telehealth, paid for by the employer:

11 1. Visually or audibly witnessing the death or maiming or visually  
12 or audibly witnessing the immediate aftermath of such a death or maiming  
13 of one or more human beings.

14 2. Responding to or being directly involved in a criminal  
15 investigation of an offense involving a dangerous crime against children  
16 as defined in section 13-705.

17 3. Requiring rescue in the line of duty where one's life was  
18 endangered.

19 B. Payment by the employer for licensed counseling pursuant to this  
20 section does not create a presumption that a claim is compensable under  
21 section 23-1043.01, subsection B.

22 C. For each program established pursuant to this section, this  
23 state and each political subdivision of this state shall compile the  
24 following data:

25 1. The total number of public safety employees who have  
26 participated in the program.

27 2. The average number of visits per public safety employee.

28 3. The average number of months that a public safety employee  
29 participated in the program.

30 4. The average number of days that a public safety employee who  
31 participated in the program missed work.

32 5. The total number of public safety employees who participated in  
33 the program and who subsequently filed a workers' compensation claim and  
34 the number of those claims that were approved and the number of those  
35 claims that were denied.

36 6. For each employer, the total amount of work missed by public  
37 safety employees who participated in the program and how missed work was  
38 provided for by the employer or through employee benefits.

39 D. On or before September 1 of each year, this state and each  
40 political subdivision of this state shall submit the data collected  
41 pursuant to subsection C of this section to the department of  
42 administration. On or before October 1 of each year, the department of  
43 administration shall compile the data into a report and submit the report  
44 to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of  
45 representatives, the chairperson of the senate health and human services

1 committee, or its successor committee, the chairperson of the house of  
2 representatives health and human services committee, or its successor  
3 committee, the chairperson of the senate military affairs, public safety  
4 and border security committee, or its successor committee, and the  
5 chairperson of the house of representatives military affairs and public  
6 safety committee, or its successor committee, and shall provide a copy of  
7 this report to the secretary of state. Subsection C of this section and  
8 this subsection do not authorize this state or a political subdivision of  
9 this state to compile and report data that is protected under the health  
10 insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 (P.L. 104-191; 110  
11 Stat. 1936).

12 E. This section does not apply to a state employer that provides a  
13 program to its public safety employees that is characterized by all of the  
14 following:

15 1. The program is paid for by the employer.

16 2. The program provides licensed counseling for any issue. For  
17 licensed counseling related to trauma experienced while in the line of  
18 duty, the licensed counseling is provided on the request of the public  
19 safety employee and is in person.

20 3. Before July 1, 2017, the program offers at least six visits per  
21 year.

22 4. On or after July 1, 2017, the program offers at least twelve  
23 visits per year.

24 F. For the purposes of this section:

25 1. "Licensed counseling" means counseling provided by a licensed  
26 mental health professional.

27 2. "Licensed mental health professional" means a licensed  
28 individual who specializes in trauma and crisis, who uses evidence-based  
29 treatment options and who is one of the following:

30 (a) A psychiatrist who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13  
31 or 17.

32 (b) A psychologist who is licensed pursuant to title 32,  
33 chapter 19.1.

34 (c) A mental health professional who is licensed pursuant to  
35 title 32, chapter 33 and who holds either a master's or doctoral degree  
36 related to the mental health profession.

37 (d) A mental health nurse practitioner or a psychiatric clinical  
38 nurse specialist who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 15.

39 (e) A physician assistant who is licensed pursuant to title 32,  
40 chapter 25.

41 3. "Public safety employee":

42 (a) Means:

43 (i) Except as prescribed in subdivision ~~(b)~~ (c) of this paragraph,  
44 an individual who is a member of the public safety personnel retirement  
45 system or the corrections officer retirement plan.

1           (ii) Except as prescribed in subdivision ~~(b)~~ (c) of this paragraph,  
2 a probation officer, surveillance officer or juvenile detention officer  
3 who is employed by this state or a political subdivision of this state.

4           (iii) Except as prescribed in subdivision ~~(b)~~ (c) of this  
5 paragraph, a 911 dispatcher in a primary or secondary public safety  
6 answering point.

7           (b) INCLUDES A CRIME SCENE TECHNICIAN AND DIGITAL FORENSICS  
8 TECHNICIAN.

9           ~~(b)~~ (c) Does not include peace officers or firefighters.

10          Sec. 2. Repeal

11          A. Laws 2016, chapter 240, section 2, as amended by Laws 2022,  
12 chapter 377, section 2, is repealed.

13          B. Laws 2018, chapter 259, section 3, as amended by Laws 2022,  
14 chapter 377, section 3, is repealed.