

**441—34.1(225C) Definitions.** Unless otherwise indicated, the following definitions shall apply to the specific terms used in these rules:

*“Alternative diagnostic facility”* means any organization or individual designated by the county board of supervisors to implement the preliminary diagnostic evaluation policy (Iowa Code section 225C.14) when a county is not served by a community mental health center capable of the diagnostic evaluations. An alternative diagnostic facility may be the outpatient service of a state mental health institute or any organization or individual able to furnish the requisite skills and to meet the standards set forth in this chapter by the mental health and mental retardation commission.

*“Mental health professional”* means a person who:

1. Holds at least a master’s degree in a mental health field, including, but not limited to, psychology, counseling and guidance, nursing and social work; or is a doctor of medicine (M.D.) or doctor of osteopathic medicine and surgery (D.O.); and
2. Holds a current Iowa license when required by Iowa licensure law; and
3. Has at least two years of postdegree experience, supervised by a mental health professional, in assessing mental health problems and needs of individuals and in providing appropriate mental health services for those individuals.

*“Preliminary diagnostic evaluation”* means an assessment of a person’s mental health problems and needs in order to determine the most appropriate service for the person. The evaluation includes, but is not limited to, an assessment of the individual’s needs, abilities, disabilities, and relevant environmental factors. Where possible, there is collaboration with the individual’s family or significant others as appropriate.