

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELORS

The Governor recently signed into law legislation (Senate Bill 788) that creates a new category of psychotherapist in California. Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs) will be licensed and regulated by the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

TIMELINE

- Authorizes acceptance of LPCC Intern applications on 1/1/2011;
- Authorizes acceptance of LPCC examination eligibility applications on 1/1/2012;
- Authorizes acceptance of LPCC applications for out-of-state applicants on 1/1/2011;
- Authorizes acceptance of grandfathered LPPC applications between 1/1/2011 and 6/30/2011.

GRANDPARENTING LICENSURE (New Business and Professions Code section 4999.54)

For Counselors:

- Applications must be received between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011. All deficiencies must be remediated within 12 months of the Board's evaluation of the application.
- There are two ways to qualify for licensure during the grandparenting period:
 - Applicant has a master's or doctoral degree from an accredited institution, which is counseling or psychotherapy in content, meets specified supervision requirements and obtains a passing score on the following three examinations:
 - The National Counselor Examination (NCE) or the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination (CRCE);
 - The National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE); and;
 - A California jurisprudence and ethics examination that has yet to be developed by the Board.

For MFTs and LCSWs:

- Applicant is currently a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFTs) or Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) and meets the specified educational requirements of the new Business and Professions Code section 4999.54. An examination may be required.

OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS (New Business and Professions Code section 4999.58)

- Applicants that apply before December 31, 2012 must have held, for at least two years, a valid license as a professional clinical counselor, or other counseling license, which allows the applicant to independently provide clinical mental health services in another jurisdiction of the United States.
- Education that is substantially equivalent to California's requirement for LPCCs.
- Supervision that is substantially equivalent to that required in California plus 250 hours of supervised clinical experience in direct counseling within California, while registered as an intern with the board.
- Passing score on examinations approved by the board.

The full text of this legislation can be found at http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_788&sess=CUR&house=B&author=wyland.

Members of the Board's subscriber list will receive email alerts regarding the implementation of the new LPCC law. You can subscribe for future board updates at http://www.bbs.ca.gov/quick_links/subscribe.shtml. You may also contact your professional associations for additional information.

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