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Board of Examiners for Licensure of
Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family
Therapists, Addiction Counselors
and Psycho-Educational Specialists



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www.llronline.com/POL/Counselors

Dear South Carolina Counselor/Marriage and Family Therapist/Intern/Supervisor:

There have been some significant legislative changes that were approved regarding your licensure. The Board is in the process of putting these changes in place and wanted to let you know how they might affect you. The most significant change is the addition of an Addiction Counselor License. There will be a grandfathering period to obtain this license until **October 1, 2018**. Below is an overview of this and other pertinent changes. This is just an overview, and you should refer to the LLR website <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Counselors/> for the complete and official statutory and regulation changes.

Addiction Counselor License grandfathering:

- There will be three qualification categories for applying for licensure through the grandfathering period. You will receive an email with information within the next week on how to apply.
 - *Category One*- is for those with a master's degree in a human services field, current CACII, CCS, MAC, NCACII, ADC, or AADC certification and completion of at least two years of full-time or 4,000 hours of experience within the last five years working primarily with the substance-use disordered population, in either direct service or supervisory/consulting.
 - *Category Two*- is for those with a current license as a Professional Counselor, Professional Counselor Supervisor, or Marriage and Family Therapist and completion of at least two years of full-time or 4,000 hours of experience within the last five years working primarily with the substance-use disordered population, in either direct service or supervisory/consulting.
 - *Category Three*- is for those with a bachelor's degree in a human services field, current CACII, NCACII, or AADC certification and completion of at least five years of full-time or 10,000 hours of experience within the last eight years working primarily with the substance-use disordered population, in either direct service or supervisory/consulting.
- **Applications for Addiction Counselor licensing through this grandfathering process MUST be received or postmarked ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2018. Applicants submitting applications after this date will not be eligible for grandfathering and will have to meet the statutory requirements for licensing as an Addiction Counselor.**

Changes pertinent to LPC-I and LMFT-I Licensees and Supervisors:

- LPC-Is and LMFT-Is can now use the designation LPC-As or LMFT-As. For clarification, the designation Intern has been changed to Associate. This change goes into effect immediately. You will not receive a new identification card unless you are due for renewal of your license.

- The number of supervision hours has been reduced from 150 to 120. You must still complete these hours over a two-year period. In turn, this increases your direct client contact hours from 1,350 to 1,380. If you meet these qualifications, you may go ahead and submit your application for full licensure.
- If you are currently receiving supervision, the Board has approved distance supervision via HIPAA-compliant software for up to 30 hours (group or individual).
- You must have a supervision contract on file with the supervisor that signs off on your hours or they will not count. Supervisors still may only have 8 supervisees.
- The number of supervisees allowed in a group has changed from 4 to 6. Concurrently, the minimum time of group has been increased from 1.5 hours to 2 hours.

The Board does not obtain or have information regarding those individuals who are Counselor or Marriage and Family Therapist Supervisor candidates. However, the South Carolina Counseling Association and the South Carolina Association of Marriage and Family Therapy will be compiling and maintaining a list of Counselor and of Marriage and Family Therapist Supervisor candidates. Supervisor candidates may wish to provide their information to their respective Associations (SCCA and SCAMFT). Please contact Chandler Cox at southcarolinacounselingassoc@gmail.org (LPC) or Danielle Allen at allendnm@gmail.com (LMFT) for more information.

Associates seeking supervision, in addition to reviewing the Board Licensee Lookup for licensed Supervisors, at <https://verify.llronline.com/LicLookup/Counselors/LPCPCS.aspx> for Licensed Counselor Supervisors or at <https://verify.llronline.com/LicLookup/Counselors/LMFMFTS.aspx> for Licensed MFT Supervisors, may also wish to refer to the Associations' lists of Supervisor candidates to assist in their supervisor selection process. Neither the Board nor LLR are involved in this service being provided by SCCA and SCAMFT, and make no representation as to the accuracy of the information provided therein. Associates are advised to use due diligence in any actions undertaken to obtain the required supervision hours.

Regulation changes pertinent to everyone:

- The continuing education requirement has changed to specifically include ethical course work. You will be required to have the same amount of continuing education credits with 6 of those now being ethics specific. If you hold dual licenses, please refer to the regulations for specific information on breakdown for each license. ***The requirement to have ethics-specific continuing education will not begin until the 2019 renewal cycle.***
- Up to 50% of continuing education can be taken asynchronously (meaning training is not face to face or in real time) online. This begins immediately.

Changes pertinent to new applicants:

- New applicants will be required to submit a disclosure statement with their applications.
- Education requirements may be met by graduation from CACREP and COAMFTE accredited programs. Applicants graduating from these programs will be expedited through the educational review process.
- For applicants that did not graduate from an accredited program and must meet the curriculum requirements set out in the regulation, there have been revisions to these requirements:
 - Applicants must have 100 hours of practicum and 600 hours of internship.
 - Applicants must have 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours of coursework content in diagnostics ***and/or*** psychopathology (meaning you could have either or you could have a combination of both to make up the hours needed).
 - The coursework requirements for applicants for the MFT License have been revised to match the current COAMFTE standards
- Licensure by endorsement now requires that a person must hold a current, active, and unrestricted license ***in good standing*** under the laws of another state or territory that had requirements that were, ***at the date of initial licensure, substantially equivalent to or higher than the requirements in effect in South Carolina at the date of initial licensure.***

This is only a summary of the pertinent changes. For more detailed and complete information, please refer to Act 249 of 2018 and the LLR website <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Counselors/> for the full statute and regulation changes.