

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
SOCIAL WORKERS & MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
CHAPTER 135-5 REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers & Marriage and Family Therapists (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers & Marriage and Family Therapists, Chapter 135-5 Requirements for Licensure (hereinafter "proposed rule amendment"). The proposed rule amendment includes revisions to Rule 135-5-.02.

The proposed rule amendment clarifies the requirements for licensure in Professional Counseling.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers & Marriage and Family Therapists office website at www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/counselor or by contacting the Board office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. on July 14, 2006 in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment. At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcomed. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information for the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:30 p.m. EDT) on July 7, 2006. Written comments should be addressed to Mollie L. Fleeman, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers & Marriage and Family Therapists, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. FAX: 478-207-1363.

The proposed rule amendment will be considered for adoption by the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers & Marriage and Family Therapists at its meeting scheduled to begin at 1:20 p.m. on July 14, 2006, in the Conference Room 4 (104), 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers & Marriage and Family Therapists has the authority to adopt proposed rule amendment 135-5-.02 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(a)(1), 43-1-25, 43-10A-3(10), 43-10A-5, 43-10A-11, and 43-10A-17.

At its meeting on May 12, 2006 the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(a)(1), 43-1-25, 43-10A-3(10), 43-10A-5, 43-10A-11, and 43-10A-17.

Additionally, at its meeting on May 12, 2006, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(a)(1), 43-1-25, 43-10A-3(10), 43-10A-5, 43-10A-11, and 43-10A-17 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. §50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of this rule will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated and dominant in the field of Professional Counseling.

For further information, contact the Board office at 478-207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13-4).

This ____ day of _____, 2006.

Mollie Fleeman
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: _____

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, SOCIAL
WORKERS, AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
RULE FOR
REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE CHAPTER 135-5,
Rule 135-5-.02 Professional Counselors. Amended.**

Rule 135-5-.02 The meanings of “Directed Experience” and “Supervision” have been clarified.

Purpose: The purpose of this change is to further clarify the meanings of “Directed Experience” and “Supervision.”

Main Features: The rule provides education requirements for applicants who are submitting applications to the Board.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, SOCIAL
WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
RULE FOR
REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE CHAPTER 135-5
Rule 135-5-.02 Professional Counselors. Amended.**

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

135-5-.02 Professional Counselors. Amended.

Pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated 43-10A-11 an applicant for a license in Professional Counseling must meet the following requirements.

(a) Definitions.

1. **"The Practice of Professional Counseling"** means practice in that specialty which utilizes counseling and psychotherapy to evaluate and treat emotional and mental problems and conditions, whether cognitive, behavioral, or affective. The practice is further defined in O.C.G.A. 43-10A-3(10).
2. **"Direction"** means the ongoing administrative overseeing by an employer or superior of a Professional Counselor's work by a director. The director shall be responsible for assuring the quality of the services rendered by that practitioner and shall ensure that qualified supervision or intervention occurs in situations which require expertise beyond that of the practitioner.
3. **"Director"** means the person who provides direction and who is either the employer of the person who receives direction or is the supervisor in the employment chain of command to the person who receives direction. The Director must be located at the same site where the experience is being acquired.

4. **"Supervision"** means the clinical review, for the purpose of training or teaching, by a supervisor of a Professional Counselor's interaction with their client(s). The purpose of supervision is to promote the development of the practitioner's clinical skills. Supervision may include, without being limited to, the review of case presentations, audiotapes, videotapes, and direct observation of the practitioner's clinical skills. Supervision does not require the supervisor to be on-site with the supervisee. Supervision may be provided pro bono or for a fee.

(i) **Individual Supervision** means one supervisor meeting with a maximum of two supervisees.

(ii) **Group Supervision** means one supervisor meeting with a maximum of six supervisees.

5. **"Supervisor"** means a licensed Professional Counselor, Clinical Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, Psychologist, or Psychiatrist, who complies with the ethical standards of practice of their profession with particular attention being paid to prohibited dual relationships. In addition,

(i) a supervisor who holds a master's degree must have three (3) years of post-licensure experience; and

(ii) a supervisor who holds a specialist degree must have two (2) years of post-licensure experience; and

(iii) a supervisor who holds a doctoral degree must have one (1) year of post-licensure experience.

(iv) However, the Board in its discretion may approve a supervisor whose experience is substantially similar to those stated herein.

(v) In a supervised practicum or internship which is part of the graduate degree program, either the course instructor of record or the on-site clinical instructor must be a qualified supervisor OR, in the education of rehabilitation counselors, may be a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor OR, in an applied psychology program before January 1, 2004, may be a person with a master's degree from an accredited educational institution in a program of applied psychology.

6. **"Directed Experience"** means time spent ~~as an employee, not an independent contractor, under direction in either~~ under direction engaging in the practice of professional counseling as defined in 135-5-.02(a).

~~(i) Client contact as counselor or co-counselor;~~

~~(ii) Case staffing (the group discussion of a case), or~~

~~(iii) Case supervision.~~

7. **"One Year of Directed Experience"** means a minimum of 600 hours of directed experience ~~as an employee, not an independent contractor, acquired within a period of not less than twelve consecutive months and not more than twenty consecutive months.~~ **"Years of Directed Experience"**

(i) "One year of Directed Experience " means a minimum of 600 hours of directed experience acquired within a period of not less than twelve months and not more than twenty months.

(ii) "Two years of Directed Experience" means a minimum of 1200 hours of directed experience under supervision acquired within a period of not less than twenty-four months and not more than 60 months.

(iii) "Three years of Directed Experience" means a minimum of 1800 hours of directed experience under supervision acquired within a period of not less than thirty-six months and not more than 60 months.

(iv) "Four years of Directed Experience" means a minimum of 2400 hours of directed experience under supervision acquired within a period of not less than forty-eight months and not more than 60 months.

8. ~~"One year of supervision" means a minimum of 30 hours of supervision obtained during one year of Directed Experience as defined in number 7 above.~~ **"Years of Supervision"**

(i) "One year of Supervision" means a minimum of 30 hours of supervision obtained during one year of Directed Experience as defined in Rule 135-5-.02(7).

(ii) "Two years of Supervision" means a minimum of 60 hours of supervision obtained during two years of Directed Experience as defined in Rule 135-5-.02(7).

(iii) "Three years of Supervision" means a minimum of 90 hours of supervision obtained during three years of Directed Experience as defined in Rule 135-5-.02(7).

(iv) "Four years of Supervision" means a minimum of 120 hours of supervision obtained during four years of Directed Experience as defined in Rule 135-5-.02(7).

9. **"Work settings acceptable to the Board"** means a directed work settings in which the practice of Professional Counseling takes place and may include, but is not limited to, education, rehabilitation, career development, mental health, community, or industrial organizations. Practice without direction is not a work setting acceptable to the Board.

10. **"Certified Rehabilitation Counselor"** means a person who is certified as a rehabilitation counselor by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification.

11. **"Program Primarily Counseling in Content"** and **"Program in Applied Psychology"** means a course of study at an accredited educational institution consisting of a master's, specialist or doctoral degree which includes, either as part of the degree program or as additional course work completed prior to, during or after the degree program, the following graduate level courses. An individual course may not be used to fulfill the requirement in more than one content area.

(i) **Counseling/ Psychotherapy Theory**, which includes the principles, concepts, and practice of counseling/psychotherapy and the major models of counseling/psychotherapy.

(ii) **A Counseling or Applied Psychology Practicum or Internship** as part of the graduate degree program.

(iii) **Courses in six (6) of the following nine (9) content areas:**

(I) **Human Growth and Development**, which includes an understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental levels, personality theory, and learning theory, and which may provide a comprehensive overview of the factors, determinants, and stages that pertain to physical, emotional, intellectual, and social development and adaptation from infantile to geriatric stages.

(II) **Social and Cultural Foundations**, which includes an understanding of societal changes and trends, human roles, societal subgroups, social mores and interaction patterns, and differing lifestyles; OR **Core Foundations**, a course in one of the following categories: Social, Motivational and Personality Psychology; Learning and Cognition; History of Psychology; Biological Psychology; Industrial/Organizational Psychology; Cultural Diversity; or Humanistic/Phenomenological Psychology.

(III) **The Helping Relationship**, which includes an understanding of the philosophic bases of helping processes, helper self-understanding and self-development, and the facilitation of client change; OR **Advanced Psychotherapy/Intervention Theory**, which includes the in-depth study of the major theories, principles, methods and techniques of psychotherapy with individuals, groups or families, focusing on the treatment or prevention of behavior disorders, adjustment problems, psychopathology, or other psychological disturbance.

(IV) **Group Dynamics and Group Counseling/Psychotherapy**, which includes an understanding of group development, dynamics, and counseling/ psychotherapy theories; group leadership styles; group counseling/psychotherapy methods and skills; and other group approaches.

(V) **Lifestyle and Career Development**, which includes an understanding of career development theories; occupational educational information sources and systems; career and leisure counseling, guidance and education; lifestyle and career decision making; and career development program planning, resources, and evaluation.

(VI) **Appraisal/ Assessment of Individuals**, which includes an understanding of psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal/assessment; validity and reliability; psychometric statistics; the selection, administration, scoring and interpretation of various assessment instruments; and the use of appraisal/assessment results in the counseling/psychotherapy process.

(VII) **Research Methods and Evaluation**, which includes an understanding of types of research, statistics, research report development, research implementation, program evaluation, needs assessment, and ethical and legal considerations in research; OR **Research Statistics**, which includes an understanding of the theory, analysis and interpretation of manual or computer generated statistical measures.

(VIII) **Professional Orientation**, which includes an understanding of professional roles, responsibilities, and functions; professional goals and objectives; professional organizations and associations; professional history and trends; ethical and legal standards; professional preparation standards; and professional credentialing.

(IX) **Psychopathology**, which includes theories, research, descriptive characteristics, categories, dynamics, and etiology of mental, behavioral, cognitive and personality disorders.

(b) An applicant who holds a master's degree from a program primarily counseling in content must meet the following requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor.

1. **Education.** The applicant must have earned a master's degree from an institution which, at the time the degree was awarded, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation. The applicant must document graduate level coursework from such an accredited institution in order to demonstrate that the degree program is primarily counseling in content.

2. **Directed Experience under Supervision.** The applicant must present evidence of four (4) years of post-master's directed experience under supervision (see definitions at 135-5-.02(a)) in the practice of Professional Counseling in a work setting acceptable to the Board OR three (3) years of post-master's directed experience under supervision in the practice of Professional Counseling in a work setting acceptable to the Board and a supervised counseling practicum or internship of at least 300 hours which was part of the graduate degree program. A minimum of two (2) years of the supervision must be provided by a supervisor who is a licensed Professional Counselor, except that if the supervision was acquired prior to September 23, 1993, such supervision may have been provided by any qualified supervisor.

(c) An applicant who holds a specialist degree from a program primarily counseling in content must meet the following requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor.

1. **Education.** The applicant must have earned a specialist degree from an institution, which, at the time the degree was awarded, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation. The applicant must document graduate level coursework from such an accredited institution in order to demonstrate that the degree program is primarily counseling in content.

2. **Directed Experience under Supervision.** The applicant must present evidence of two (2) years of post-master's directed experience under supervision (see definitions at 135-5-.02(a)) in the practice of Professional Counseling in a work setting acceptable to the Board and a supervised counseling practicum or internship of at least 300 hours which was part of the graduate degree program OR three (3) years of post-master's directed experience under supervision in the practice of Professional Counseling in a work setting acceptable to the Board. A minimum of one (1) year of the supervision must be provided by a supervisor who is a licensed Professional Counselor, except that if the supervision was acquired prior to September 23, 1993, such supervision may have been provided by any qualified supervisor.

(d) An applicant who holds a doctoral degree from a program primarily counseling in content must meet the following requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor.

1. **Education.** The applicant must have earned a doctoral degree from an institution which, at the time the degree was awarded, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation. The applicant must document graduate level coursework from

such an accredited institution in order to demonstrate that the degree program is primarily counseling in content.

2. Directed Experience under Supervision. The applicant must present evidence of one (1) year of supervised counseling internship in a work setting acceptable to the Board OR one (1) year of post master's directed experience under supervision (see definitions at 135-5-.02(a)) in the practice of Professional Counseling in a work setting acceptable to the Board. A minimum of half of the one year of supervision must be provided by a supervisor who is a licensed Professional Counselor, except that if the supervision was acquired prior to September 23, 1993, such supervision may have been provided by any qualified supervisor.

(e) An applicant who is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor must meet the following requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor.

1. Education. The applicant must have earned a master's degree from a rehabilitation counseling program which, at the time the degree was awarded, was accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education OR a master's degree from an institution which, at the time the degree was awarded, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation with documented graduate level coursework demonstrating that the degree program is primarily counseling in content.

2. Directed Experience under Supervision. The applicant must present evidence of three (3) years of post-master's directed experience providing rehabilitation services in a rehabilitation setting acceptable to the Board under the supervision (see definitions at 135-5-.02(a)) of a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor or other qualified supervisor OR two (2) years of post-master's directed experience providing rehabilitation services in a rehabilitation setting acceptable to the Board under the supervision (see definitions at 135-5-.02(a)) of a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor or other qualified supervisor and a supervised counseling practicum or internship of at least 300 hours which was part of the graduate degree program. A minimum of one (1) year of the supervision must be provided by a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor or a supervisor who is a licensed Professional Counselor.

3. Certification. The applicant must hold the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor designation.

(f) An applicant who holds a master's degree in psychology must meet the following requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor.

1. Education. The applicant must have earned a master's degree in a program of applied psychology from an institution, which, at the time the degree was awarded, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation. The applicant must document graduate level coursework from such an accredited institution in order to demonstrate that the degree program is a program of applied psychology.

2. Directed Experience under Supervision. The applicant must present evidence of four (4) years of post-master's directed experience under supervision (see definitions at 135-5-.02(a)) in the practice of Professional Counseling in a work setting acceptable to the Board OR three (3) years of post-master's directed experience under supervision in the practice of Professional Counseling in a work setting acceptable to the Board and a supervised counseling or applied

psychology practicum or internship of at least 300 hours which was part of the graduate degree program. A minimum of two (2) years of the supervision must be provided by a supervisor who is a licensed Professional Counselor or Psychologist, except that if the supervision was acquired prior to January 1, 2004, such supervision may have been provided by a person with a master's degree from an accredited educational institution in a program of applied psychology.

(g) **An applicant who holds a current license as an Associate Professional Counselor** shall not be required to re-take the written examination following Board approval of their application for licensure as a Professional Counselor.

Authority O.C.G.A §§ 43-1-19(a)(1), 43-1-25, 43-10A-3(10), 43-10A-5, 43-10A-11, and 43-10A-17.
