



LICENSING ALERT

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Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure
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SUPERVISION OF COUNSELOR ASSISTANTS

28 Pa. Code § 704.9(a) requires that a counselor assistant be supervised by a full-time clinical supervisor or counselor who meets the qualifications in 28 Pa. Code §§ 704.6 or 704.7. 28 Pa. Code § 704.9(c) addresses the length of time and type of supervision required. The Department's drug and alcohol treatment facility regulations contain provisions through which a facility may request an exception to specific requirements of 28 Pa. Code Part V, including the requirements of 28 Pa. Code § 704.9(c). *See* 28 Pa. Code §§ 701.11-701.13.

Through this exceptions process, the Division will consider reducing the supervision requirements set forth in 28 Pa. Code § 704.9(c)(1) or (2) for individuals in the counselor assistant position who meet the requirements of 28 Pa. Code § 704.8(a)(1) or (2). A facility that has counselor assistants meeting the requirements of 28 Pa. Code § 704.8(a)(1) or (2) for whom the facility would like to seek an exception, should file an exception request which outlines the length of time and type of supervision the facility intends to provide the counselor assistant.

The Division will not consider exceptions for counselor assistants who are not actively pursuing promotion to the position of counselor pursuant to 28 Pa. Code § 704.10. A facility shall immediately notify the Division if a counselor assistant for whom the facility was granted an exception pursuant to this Licensing Alert discontinues pursuing a promotion to the position of counselor pursuant to 28 Pa. Code § 704.10. Discontinuing the pursuit of a promotion to the position of counselor pursuant to 28 Pa. Code § 704.10 will be considered justifiable reason for revocation of the exception pursuant to 28 Pa. Code § 701.12.

Exceptions may be submitted following the procedure outlined in 28 Pa. Code §§ 701.11-701.13 and Licensing Alert 4-97, and should include the facility's supervision plan and documentation of the counselor assistant's pursuit of promotion pursuant to 28 Pa. Code § 704.10. The alternative supervision proposed in a facility's exception request may not begin prior to an exception being granted.

Questions regarding this Alert may be directed to the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure, telephone 717-783-8675.

****Please visit the Department's web site to access this Licensing Alert and other Division publications (www.health.state.pa.us and enter DAPL in the search box)****