

# LICENSING ALERT

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Deputy Secretary for Quality Assurance

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Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure  
Licensing Alert 3-98

## STAFFING REGULATIONS QUALIFICATIONS/DEGREE FROM A FOREIGN NON-ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE

Since implementation of the Chapter 704 Staffing Requirements for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activities on March 4, 1996, it has become apparent that a number of drug and alcohol counselors have degrees from foreign universities/colleges lacking accreditation. The staffing regulations require that counselors have degrees from an accredited university or college. The United States is the only country which has an accreditation system, therefore, universities/colleges in other countries cannot be accredited unless they have a satellite site in the United States.

Accordingly, the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure will allow for a variance provided that specific criteria are followed:

- (1) This variance is permitted only for those individuals with a degree from a foreign non-accredited university/college.
- (2) The drug and alcohol treatment facility must obtain an evaluation on the individual from one of two agencies recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education – World Education Services or International Consultants of Delaware. This evaluation must include a “statement of comparability” to the specific qualifications published in the staffing regulations.
- (3) A request for an exception from the regulations in these instances is not required. Rather, this evaluation must become part of the individual’s personnel file and presented for review by the Division at any time.

If the facility is uncertain about the acceptability of the evaluation, the facility may forward a copy of

the evaluation to the Division, prior to hiring an individual.

The addresses and phone numbers for these two evaluation organizations are as follows:

World Education Services  
P. O. Box 745  
Old Chelsea Station  
New York, NY 10113  
(212) 966-6311

International Consultants of Delaware  
115 Barksdale Professional Center  
Newark, DE 19711  
(302) 737-8715

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Bashore or Arvida Wanner at (717) 783-8675.