

LICENSING ALERT



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Deputy Secretary for Department
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Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure
Licensing Alert 02-15

STAFFING REGULATIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION FOR THE POSITION OF COUNSELOR

Since implementation of Chapter 704 Staffing Requirements for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activities on March 4, 1996, there has been at times some question relating to the requirement for certification, which is required by **28 Pa. Code § 704.7 Qualifications for the position of counselor** which, including the prior interpretive guideline, states:

“(6) Full certification as an addictions counselor by a statewide certification body which is a member of a National certification body or certification by another state government’s substance abuse counseling certification board.

Full certification as an addictions counselor may include the Certified Addictions Counselor, Certified Co-occurring Disorders Professional, or Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional offered by the Pennsylvania Certification Board. An Associate Addictions Counselor I or II or an Allied Addictions Practitioner is not considered full certification.”

For clarification, Certified Associate Addictions Counselor (CAAC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), and Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC), as offered by the Pennsylvania Certification Board are accepted as full certification for the purposes of this regulation. The Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS), Certified Allied Addiction Practitioner (CAAP), and the Certified Intervention Professional (CIP) are not considered full certification for this purpose.

Similarly, **28 Pa. Code §704.10 Promotion of counselor assistant**, including the prior interpretive guideline, states:

(b) A counselor assistant shall document to the facility director that he is working toward counselor status. This information shall be documented upon completion of each calendar year.

Documentation may include college transcripts of coursework, records of achievement, or CAC application.

Since the CAC is no longer available from the Pennsylvania Certification Board, acceptable alternatives would include application for Certified Associate Addictions Counselor (CAAC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC), Certified Co-occurring Disorders Professional (CCDP), or Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional (CCJP).

Questions regarding this alert should be directed to the Division of Program Licensing at (717) 783-8675.

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