

**RULES
OF
GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE
AND FAMILY THERAPISTS**

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CHAPTER 135-1

ORGANIZATION

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All Rules and Regulations pertaining to the administration of the State Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists, hereafter referred to as the Board, shall be administered by the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, through the Division Director of the Professional Licensing Boards Division. The office of the Division Director is located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-10A-5.

135-1-.01 Organization of Board.

The Board is composed of ten (10) members who are appointed by the Governor. The ten (10) members shall be constituted as follows: three (3) members licensed as Professional Counselors, three (3) members licensed as Social Workers, three (3) members licensed as Marriage and Family Therapists and one (1) member representing the public at large. The three (3) members of the Board from each specialty shall constitute a separate Standards Committee for their respective specialty.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-7A-4. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Organization of Board" adopted F. Jan. 14, 1986; eff. Feb. 3, 1986.

135-1-.02 Officers.

The Board shall elect from its members a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson in January of odd numbered years. Each shall serve a term of two years, or until their successor has been elected. Neither the Chairperson nor the Vice-Chairperson may succeed themselves in that office.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-7A-4. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Officers" adopted F. Jan. 14, 1986; eff. Feb. 3, 1986.

135-1-.03 Meetings.

Each year the full Board shall hold at least two meetings. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairperson or may be held upon the written request of any four members of the Board. A majority shall constitute a quorum, so long as at least one (1) member of each specialty is present, provided that no decision of the Board regarding a particular specialty shall become effective without the approval of at least two (2) of the members of the Standards Committee for that specialty. A majority of the members of a Standards Committee shall constitute a quorum for a Standards Committee meeting.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-7A-4. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Meetings" adopted. F. Jan. 14, 1986; eff. Feb. 3, 1986.

135-1-.04 Restrictions on Board Members' Activities. Amended.

(1) After a person has submitted a completed application for licensure to the Board, no member of the Board may supervise or direct such applicant for a fee until such time as that applicant becomes licensed by the Board. (2) No Board member shall participate in the deliberation or the vote on licensure of any applicant who was previously supervised or directed by that Board member.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-7A-5(f), 43-7A-4. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Public Information" was filed on January 14, 1986; effective February 3, 1986. **Amended:** Rule renumbered as Rule 135-1-.05 and a new Rule entitled "Restrictions on Board Members' Activities" adopted. Filed November 7, 1986; effective November 27, 1986. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Apr. 22, 1994; eff. May 12, 1994.

135-1-.05 Public Information.

The Public may obtain information from the Board by contacting the Board office at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-7A-4, 43-10A-5. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Public Information" adopted. F. Nov. 7, 1986; eff. Nov 27, 1986. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 16, 2001; eff. Sept. 5, 2001.

CHAPTER 135-2

FEES

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135-2-.01 Fees

135-2-.01 Fees.

Refer to fee schedule for appropriate fees payable to the Board. Fees may be reviewed and changed at the discretion of the Board. Any request for refund must be submitted in writing. An indebtedness to the Board caused by a returned check will be dealt with in accordance with Code Section 16-9-20 of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

Authority O.C.G.A. 43-7A-14. **Administrative History.** Original Rule entitled "Fees" was filed on January 14, 1986; effective February 3, 1986.

CHAPTER 135-3

APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE

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135-3-.01 General Procedure

135-3-.02 Americans With Disabilities Act

135-3-.03 Licensure by Examination

135-3-.04 Licensure by Endorsement

135-3-.01 General Procedure. Amended.

(1) A person who seeks licensure as a Professional Counselor, Social Worker or Marriage and Family Therapist shall submit the appropriate application to the Board on forms which will be furnished upon request.

(2) A person who seeks more than one license shall submit a separate application and separate non-refundable application fee for each license.

(3) The Board will only review complete applications.

(a) All documents must be received at least fourteen (14) days prior to presentation to the Board.

(b) An application must be complete within one year of the date the first document was received by the Board.

(c) Any application not completed within this period will be closed, unless the Board determines that valid extenuating circumstances exist. However, the applicant may submit a new application, new documents, and the appropriate fee.

(4) If the request for licensure is approved, the applicant will be notified in writing and assigned a license number.

(5) If the request for licensure is denied, the applicant will be notified in writing. Within 60 days of the date of the letter of denial, the applicant may petition the Board to reconsider its decision. This request for review must be in writing and should include supporting documents.

(a) The applicant may request a meeting with the appropriate Standards Committee as part of this review.

(b) If, after this review, the Board denies the application, that application will be closed. However, the applicant may submit a new application, new documents, and the appropriate fee.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-7A-5, 43-7A-9, 43-7A-10, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-9, 43-10A-10.

History. Original Rule entitled "General Procedure" adopted. F. Feb. 26, 1986; eff. Mar. 18, 1986.

Amended: F. Nov. 7, 1986; eff. Nov. 27, 1986. **Amended:** F. Nov. 18, 1987; eff. Dec. 8, 1987. **Amended:** F. Dec. 20, 1988; eff. Jan. 9, 1989. **Amended:** F. Feb. 21, 1990; eff. Mar. 13, 1990. **Amended:** F. Nov. 2, 1992; eff. Nov. 22, 1992.

135-3-.02 Americans With Disabilities Act.

The Board will provide reasonable accommodation to a qualified applicant with a disability in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The request for an

accommodation by an individual with a disability must be made in writing on a form provided by the Board and received in the Board office by the application deadline along with appropriate documentation, as indicated in the Request for Disability

Accommodation Guidelines.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-7A-5, 43-7A-9, 43-7A-10, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-9. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Licensure by Examination" adopted. F. Feb. 26, 1986; eff. Mar. 18, 1986. **Amended:** F. Nov. 7, 1986; eff. Nov. 27, 1986. **Amended:** F. Nov. 18, 1987; eff. Dec. 8, 1987. **Amended:** F. Dec. 20, 1988; eff. Jan. 9, 1989. **Amended:** F. Oct. 28, 1991; eff. Nov. 17, 1991. **Amended:** F. Sept. 1, 1992; eff. Sept. 21, 1992. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Americans With Disabilities Act" adopted. F. Mar. 29, 1993; eff. Apr. 18, 1993.

135-3-.03 Licensure by Examination. Amended.

(1) General Provisions. All Applicants.

(a) An applicant who has met the education and training requirements for licensure must file an application for licensure by examination for approval by the Board. An application is active for one year after which a new application and fee are required. Once approved by the Board, the applicant may take the examination required for that specialty.

1. The applicant shall request the educational institution to submit an official transcript directly to the Board which bears the institution's stamp/seal, the date of graduation and the degree conferred.
2. The applicant shall submit at least two personal references from supervisors, teachers, or any combination thereof on forms furnished by the Board.
3. The applicant shall submit the appropriate application fee. Fees are delineated on a separate fee schedule. The application fee is non-refundable.
4. Applicants who have previously taken the required examination shall instruct the testing authority to report their score to the Board.
5. The applicant shall treat the contents of the examination as confidential. No portion of the examination may be disclosed, reused, copied or reproduced.
6. The applicant may not review the examination, or any portion of the examination, after it has been completed and submitted to the testing authority.

(2) Provisions Applicable to License Type.

(a) Associate Professional Counselor

1. Applicants for licensure as an Associate Professional Counselor shall submit a proposed contract for obtaining the postmaster's experience and supervision required for licensure as a Professional Counselor, on forms furnished by the Board.
2. Applicants for licensure as an Associate Professional Counselor shall apply to the Board to take the examination, submit the appropriate examination fee, and may take the examination following approval by the Board. A request for a refund of an examination fee must be in writing.

(b) Professional Counselor

1. Applicants for licensure as a Professional Counselor shall apply to the Board to take the examination, shall submit the appropriate examination fee to the Board, and may take the examination following approval by the Board. A request for a refund of an examination fee must be in writing.
2. Applicants who hold a current license as an Associate Professional Counselor are not required to re-take the examination in Professional Counseling when applying for licensure as a Professional Counselor.

(c) Master's Social Worker

1. Applicants for licensure as a Master's Social Worker must pass the required licensure examination prior to applying for licensure. The applicant shall instruct the testing authority to report scores to the Board. Instructions will be furnished upon request.

(d) Clinical Social Worker

1. Applicants for licensure as a Clinical Social Worker shall apply, and upon approval by the Board schedule themselves to take the examination directly with the testing authority, and submit the appropriate examination fee to the testing authority.

(e) Associate Marriage and Family Therapist

1. Applicants for licensure as an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist shall submit a proposed contract for obtaining the postmaster's experience and supervision required for licensure as an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist, on forms furnished by the Board.

2. Applicants for licensure as an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist shall apply, and upon approval by the Board schedule themselves to take the examination directly with the testing authority, and submit the appropriate examination fee to the testing authority.

(f) Marriage and Family Therapist

1. Applicants for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist, shall apply, and upon approval by the Board schedule themselves to take the examination directly with the testing authority, and submit the appropriate examination fee to the testing authority.

2. Applicants who hold a current license as an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist are not required to re-take the examination in Marital and Family Therapy when applying for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-7A-8, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-8, 43-10A-10. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Licensure Without Examination (Grandparenting)" adopted. F. Feb. 26, 1986; eff. Mar. 18, 1986. **Amended:** F. Nov. 7, 1986; eff. Nov. 27, 1986. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Licensure by Endorsement" adopted. F. Aug. 21, 1990; eff. Sept. 10, 1990. **Repealed:** New rule entitled "Licensure by Examination" adopted. F. Mar. 29, 1993; eff. Apr. 18, 1993. **Amended:** F. May 2, 2002; eff. May 22, 2002.

135-3-.04 Licensure by Endorsement.

(1) The Board may license without examination any Professional Counselor, Social Worker or Marriage and Family Therapist currently licensed in another jurisdiction, so long as that jurisdiction's requirements for the license in question are substantially equal to those in Georgia.

(2) The applicant must file a written application for licensure by endorsement on forms which will be furnished upon request.

(a) The applicant shall direct the Board of Examiners of that jurisdiction in which the license is held to send an official statement which indicates that such license is in effect and in good standing.

(b) The applicant shall submit the appropriate application fee. See separate Fee Schedule. The application fee is non-refundable.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-7A-5, 43-7A-9, 43-7A-10. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Licensure by Exam Waiver (Reciprocity)" adopted. F. Feb. 26, 1986; eff. Mar. 18, 1986. **Amended:** F. Dec. 20, 1988; eff. Jan. 9, 1989. **Repealed:** F. Aug. 21, 1990; eff. Sept. 10, 1990. **Amended:** New Rule entitled "Licensure by Endorsement" adopted. F. Mar. 29, 1993; eff. Apr. 18, 1993.

CHAPTER 135-4

PROCEDURAL RULES

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135-4-.01 Procedural Rules

135-4-.01 Procedural Rules.

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists hereby adopts by reference as its permanent rules Chapters 295-3 through 295-13 and any future amendments thereto, of the Rules and Regulations of the Office of the Division Director, Professional Licensing Boards Division.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-7A-5, 43-10A-5. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Procedural Rules" adopted. F. Jan. 14, 1986; eff. Feb. 3, 1986. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 16, 2001; eff. Sept. 5, 2001.

CHAPTER 135-5

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE

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- 135-5-.01 Associate Professional Counselors
- 135-5-.02 Professional Counselors
- 135-5-.03 Master's Social Workers
- 135-5-.04 Clinical Social Workers
- 135-5-.05 Associate Marriage and Family Therapists
- 135-5-.06 Marriage and Family Therapists

135-5-.01 Associate Professional Counselors. Amended.

Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 43-10A-11, the requirements for licensure and the restrictions on practice for Associate Professional Counselors are as follows:

(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 masters 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 under direction engaging in the practice of Professional Counseling as defined in 135-5-.02(a).

7. **"Directed Experience Under Supervision Contract "** is a document, obtained from the Board, that defines the employment relationship for the purposes of obtaining the required post-masters directed experience under supervision.

8. **“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 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) Requirements for Licensure.

1. **Education.** The applicant must have earned a master's degree in a program primarily counseling in content or in a program of applied psychology, which degree includes a supervised practicum or internship of at least 300 hours which was part of the degree program, 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 either primarily counseling in content or a program of applied psychology.

2. **Registration of a contract for obtaining post-master's directed experience under supervision.** The applicant shall register with the Board an acceptable contract, the Directed Experience Under Supervision Contract, for obtaining the post-master's experience required for licensure as a Professional Counselor. The applicant is responsible for notifying the Board of any changes in the contract, by submitting a new contract within fourteen (14) days of the change.

(c) Restrictions on Practice.

1. A person who holds a license as an Associate Professional Counselor may only use the title "Associate Professional Counselor."

2. A person who holds a license as an Associate Professional Counselor may engage in the practice of Professional Counseling, but only under direction and supervision, and only for a period not to exceed five years while obtaining the post-master's experience and supervision required for licensure as a Professional Counselor.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-7A-3, 43-7A-5, 43-7A-11, 43-7A-13, 43-10-13, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-11, 43-10A-13, 43-10A-17. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Marriage and Family Therapists" was filed on March 10, 1986; effective March 30, 1986. **Amended:** Filed November 7, 1986; effective November 27, 1986. **Amended:** Filed December 18, 1986; effective January 7, 1987. **Amended:** Filed September 8, 1987; effective September 28, 1987. **Amended:** Filed February 16, 1988; effective March 7, 1988. **Amended:** Filed October 26, 1988; effective November 15, 1988. **Amended:** F. May 12, 1994; eff. Jun. 1, 1994. **Amended:** F. Nov. 2, 1994; eff. Nov. 22, 1994. **Amended:** F. Jan. 30, 1996; eff.

Feb. 19, 1996. **Repealed:** F. Jan. 13, 1997; eff. Feb. 2, 1997. **Amended:** New Rule entitled "Associate Professional Counselors" adopted. F. Feb. 28, 2000; eff. Mar. 19, 2000. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 13, 2003; eff. Sept. 2, 2003. **Amended:** F. Mar. 21, 2006; eff. Apr. 10, 2006. **Amended:** F. Mar. 14, 2007; eff. Apr. 3, 2007.

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](#).

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. Both supervisors and supervisees are required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the date, duration, type (individual, paired, or group), and a brief summary of the pertinent activity for each supervision session to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested.

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 under direction engaging in the practice of professional counseling as defined in 135-5-.02(a).

7. **"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. **"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. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-7A-3, 43-7A-5, 43-7A-11, 43-7A-13, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-11, 43-10A-13, 43-10A-17. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Professional Counselors" adopted. F. May 23, 1986; eff. June 12, 1986. **Amended:** F. Mar. 18, 1987; eff. Apr. 7, 1987. **Amended:** F. July 24, 1987; eff. Aug. 13, 1987. **Amended:** F. Feb. 16, 1988; eff. Mar. 7, 1988. **Amended:** F. June 27, 1991; eff. July 17, 1991. **Amended:** F. May 10, 1993; eff. May 30, 1993. **Amended:** ER. 135-5-0.1-.02 adopted. F. Oct. 4, 1993; eff. Sept. 27, 1993, as specified by the Agency. **Amended:** ER. 135-5-0.2-.02 adopted. F. Feb. 2, 1994; eff. Jan. 28, 1994, as specified by the Agency. **Amended:** Permanent Rule adopted. F. May 27, 1994; eff. June 16, 1994. **Amended:** F. Nov. 21, 1996; eff. Dec. 11, 1996. **Amended:** F. Apr. 20, 2001; eff. May 10, 2001. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 13, 2003; eff. Sept. 2, 2003.

Amended: F. Mar. 21, 2006; eff. Apr. 10, 2006. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. July 24, 2006; eff. Aug. 13, 2006. **Amended:** F. Mar. 16, 2007; eff. Apr. 5, 2007.

135-5-.03 Master's Social Workers. Amended.

(1) The Practice of Licensed Master's Social Workers.

(a) **The Practice of Licensed Master's Social Work.** A licensed Master's Social Worker may render or offer to render to individuals, marriages, couples, families, groups, organizations, governmental units, or the general public, service which is guided by knowledge of social resources, social systems, and human behavior. The licensee may provide evaluation, prevention and intervention services which include but are not restricted to community organization, counseling techniques, and supportive services such as administration, direction, supervision of bachelor's level social workers, consultation, research or education.

(b) **First Two Years of Practice.** The first two years of practice after the issuance of the Master of Social Work license shall be under direction and supervision.

(c) **Practice After Two Years of Experience.** After two years of Social Work practice under direction and supervision, **the licensee** may engage in private practice however, a master's licensee whose practice includes counseling or psychotherapeutic techniques may only engage in such practice under supervision and only for such period of time as is prescribed for qualification to take the clinical social work licensing examination.

(d) **Private Practice by a Licensed Master Social Worker After Qualifying for Clinical Social Work Licensure.** In order to continue in the private practice of social work that includes counseling or psychotherapy, a licensed master's social worker must apply for a Clinical Social Work license within 60 days of meeting the experience and supervision requirements for that license. The licensee must then take the first scheduled examination for which he/she qualifies, unless good cause is shown for postponement, in which case the licensee shall take the next scheduled examination. Upon receipt of notification that the licensee has passed the Clinical Social Work licensing examination and after meeting all requirements as prescribed in O.C.G.A. 43-10A-8 and 43-10A-72, the Board will issue a Clinical Social Work license. If the Licensee fails the examination, the Board shall require that the licensee's work remain supervised until the applicant has taken and passed the examination. The exam must be taken at the next scheduled exam date unless the Board, in its sole discretion, approves the postponement for good cause. The exam may be taken a total of three times. If the licensee fails the examination three times the licensee shall not engage in the private practice of counseling or psychotherapy in the State of Georgia until such time as he/she has taken and passed the examination, absent a statutory exemption.

2) **Licensure Process**-(Please refer to the section entitled "Definitions" for clarification of terms).

(a) **Education.** An applicant for licensure as a Master's Social Worker must have earned a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Candidacy, conditional or accreditation status must have been in effect at the school when the degree was awarded.

(b) **Practice while Preparing to Take the Licensing Examination.** Persons who have obtained a master's degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and who are practicing social work under direction and supervision while preparing to take the master's social work licensing examination, may practice for a period of up to one year following the granting of such degree.

(c) **Examination.** Within one year of graduating from a social work graduate program the individual practicing social work in the State of Georgia must apply to take the licensing examination. If the applicant fails the exam the first time it is taken, then the applicant is required to take the examination at the next scheduled exam date, unless good cause is shown for postponement. The applicant may sit for the examination a total of three times. An applicant who fails the examination three times, shall not continue to engage in the practice of social work in the state of Georgia, until such time as the applicant has taken and passed the exam absent of statutory exemption. [Certain exemptions may apply, these are designated in O.C.G.A. 43-10A-7(b)].

(3) **Definitions.**

(a) **Direction** means the ongoing administrative oversight by a director of the work of a Social Worker. The person providing direction shall be responsible for assuring the quality of the services rendered by the practitioner and shall ensure that qualified supervision or intervention occurs in situations which require expertise beyond that of the practitioner.

(b) **Director** means the person who provides direction and who is either the employer of the person who receives direction or is the superior in the employment chain of command to the person who receives direction.

(c) **Supervision** means the direct clinical review, for the purpose of training or teaching, by a supervisor of a Social Worker's interaction with clients. The purpose of supervision shall be 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. For supervision to enable the applicant to qualify for Clinical Social Work licensure, it must comply with requirements specified in Rule 135-5-.04.

(d) **Supervisor** means an individual who promotes the development of the Social Worker's clinical skills and who is a licensed Clinical Social Worker, Professional

Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Psychologist or Psychiatrist and has met the requirements to be considered a supervisor in their particular discipline. Supervision provided for an individual seeking licensure as a clinical social worker must be in compliance with Rule 135-5-04. A supervisor of a bachelor level social worker must meet the requirements specified in O.C.G.A. 43-10A-7(b)(14). (e) For Experience acquired prior to 7/1/96, one year means 800 hours acquired in no less than 12 months and no more than 36 months. (f) For Experience acquired on or after 7/1/96, one year means 1000 hours acquired in no less than 12 months and no more than 36 months.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-7A-12(a)(1), 43-10A-12, 43-10-12(a)(1), 43-10A-12(a)(1); 43-10A-12b, S.B. 137, p. 14. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Master's Social Workers" was filed on May 23, 1986; effective June 12, 1986. **Amended:** Filed November 7, 1986; effective November 27, 1986. **Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule of same title adopted. Filed June 26, 1987; effective July 16, 1987. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Dec. 3, 1991; eff. Dec. 23, 1991. **Amended:** F. Jul. 17, 1992; eff. Aug. 6, 1992. **Amended:** F. Jun. 27, 1995; eff. Jul. 17, 1995.

135-5-.04 Clinical Social Workers. Amended.

(1) Practice of Clinical Social Work.

(a) **The Practice of Clinical Social Work.** A Licensed Clinical Social Worker may practice all authorized services of licensed master's social workers and may provide: supervision; direction; psychosocial evaluation through data collection and analyses to determine the nature of an individual's mental, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions; counseling, and psychotherapy to individuals, marriages, couples, families and groups; interpretation of the psychosocial dynamics of a situation and recommend and implement a course of action to individuals, marriages, couples, families, or groups. This practice may occur in such settings as private practice, family service and counseling agencies, health care facilities and schools and may provide direct evaluation, casework, social work advocacy, education, training, prevention and intervention services in situations threatened or affected by social, intrapersonal stress, interpersonal stress or health impairment.

(2) Licensure Process (Please refer to the section entitled "Definitions" for clarification of terms).

(a) **Education.** The applicant must have earned a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education in which candidacy, conditional or accreditation status was in effect when the degree was awarded.

(b) **Experience.** The applicant with a master's degree must have completed three years' full-time supervised experience in the practice of social work following granting of the master's degree. Of the three years of supervised experience, only the first two must be under direction.

1. For experience obtained between July 1, 1987 and July 1, 1996 the applicant shall present evidence:

that at least 800 hours of the supervised experience occurred within the two years immediately preceding application for licensure;

or of having met the continuing education requirement established by the Board during the year immediately preceding application, i.e. at least 2½ hours of ethics, 10 hours of core and 5 hours of related hours.

2. If the experience was obtained prior to July 1, 1996, the applicant must present evidence of having practiced clinical social work for a minimum of 2400 hours of supervised Post Master's Degree Social Work experience acquired over a period of no less than 36 months and no more than 108 months, the first 1600 hours of which must have been under supervision and direction in the practice of clinical social work. Applicant must also acquire 96 hours of supervision during this time, 64 hours of which may be group supervision and at least 64 hours must be provided by a licensed clinical social worker.

3. If the experience is obtained after July 1, 1996, the applicant shall present evidence: that at least 1000 hours of the supervised experience occurred within the two years immediately preceding application for licensure or of having met the continuing education requirement established by the Board during the year immediately preceding application, i.e. at least 2½ hours of ethics, 10 hours of core and 5 hours of related hours.

4. If the experience was obtained after July 1, 1996, the applicant must present evidence of having practiced clinical social work for a minimum of 3000 hours post social work master's degree supervised experience acquired over a period of no less than 36 months or more than 108 months, the first 2000 hours of experience must be under supervision and direction in the practice of clinical social work. Applicant must submit documentation of having acquired 120 hours of supervision during this time, no more than 50% of which may be group supervision and at least 50% must be provided by a licensed clinical social worker who meets requirements to be a duly qualified supervisor. The Board, in its sole discretion, may extend the period of time in which the applicant must have acquired supervision and/or experience with adequate showing of hardship or good cause.

5. Both supervisors and supervisees are required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the date, duration, type (individual, paired, or group), and a brief summary of the pertinent activity for each supervision session to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested.

(3) An applicant who holds a master's degree in social work and holds a doctoral degree in Professional Counseling; Social Work; Marriage and Family Therapy; Medicine; Psychiatric Nursing; Applied Psychology; Pastoral Counseling; or Applied Child and

Family Development and whose degree program included a supervised clinical internship may substitute this for one year of experience.

(a) An individual who submits an application with experience obtained prior to July 1, 1996 and who holds a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and holds a doctoral degree in Professional Counseling; Social Work; Marriage and Family Therapy; Medicine, Psychiatric Nursing; Applied Psychology; Pastoral Counseling; or Applied Child and Family Development must present evidence of 2 years (1600 hours) postmaster's supervised experience under direction in the practice of Clinical Social Work, obtained in no less than 24 months nor more than 72 months. Such applicant must also submit documentation of 64 hours of supervision (in addition to the clinical internship), 50% of which must be supervised by a Social Worker, a maximum of 50% may be group supervision.

(b) An individual who submits experience obtained after July 1, 1996 and holds a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and holds a doctoral degree in Professional Counseling; Social Work; Marriage and Family Therapy; Medicine, Psychiatric Nursing; Applied Psychology; Pastoral Counseling; or Applied Child and Family Development must also present evidence of two years full time supervised post master's degree experience (defined as 2000 hours) under direction in the practice of Clinical Social Work obtained in no less than 24 months or no more than 72 months. Such applicant must also submit evidence of 80 hours of supervision provided by a duly qualified supervisor, 50% of which may be group supervision. Fifty percent of the supervision must be provided by a licensed Clinical Social Worker.

(4) The Board, in its sole discretion, may extend the period of time in which the applicant must have acquired supervision and/or experience with adequate showing of hardship or good cause.

(a) **Examination.** After having completed the above experience requirements the applicant must submit an application to the board for licensure and upon approval the applicant must take the first scheduled examination for which he/she qualifies, unless good cause is shown for postponement, in which case the applicant shall take the next scheduled examination. [Upon receipt of notification that the applicant has passed the Clinical Social Work licensing examination, the Board will issue a Clinical Social Work license.] If the applicant fails the examination, the Board shall require that the applicant's work remain supervised until the applicant has taken and passed the examination. The exam must be taken at the next scheduled exam date unless good cause is shown for postponement. The exam may be taken a total of three times. An applicant who fails the examination three times, applicant shall not engage in the private practice of counseling or psychotherapy in the State of Georgia until such time as he/she has taken and passed the examination, absent a statutory exemption.

(5) **Definitions.**

(a) **Direction** means the ongoing administrative oversight by an employer or superior of a Social Worker. The person providing direction shall be responsible for assuring the quality of the services rendered by the practitioner and shall ensure that qualified supervision or intervention occurs in situations which require expertise beyond that of the practitioner.

(b) **Director** means the person who provides direction and who is either the employer of the person who receives direction or is the superior in the employment chain of command to the person who receives direction.

(c) **Directed Experience** in the practice of Clinical Social Work means time spent under direction engaging in the activities defined as Clinical Social Work in Rule 135-5-.04(1)(a).

(d) **Supervision** means the direct clinical review, for the purpose of training or teaching, by a supervisor of a Social Worker's interaction with clients. The purpose of supervision shall be 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.

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

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

1. In order to provide supervision in the practice of Clinical Social Work a supervisor shall have first met the following criteria:

For supervision provided prior to July 1, 1987, the supervisor shall: be licensed as a Psychologist or Psychiatrist; or have earned a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

(g) **For supervision provided between July 1, 1987 and July 1, 1996**, supervisor means a person who is licensed as a Clinical Social Worker, Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Psychologist, Psychiatrist, or is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers.

(h) **For Supervision provided after July 1, 1996**, supervisor means a person who is licensed as a Clinical Social Worker, Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Psychologist, or Psychiatrist and must have practiced in their specialty for at least 2000 clock hours over a minimum of 2 years following licensure.

(i) **For experience acquired prior to July 1, 1996**, one year of full-time experience in the practice of Clinical Social Work means:

a minimum of 800 hours under direction in the practice of Clinical Social Work acquired in a period of not less than 12 months and not more than 36 months.

(j) Experience acquired after July 1, 1996, one year of full time experience means:

a minimum of 1000 hours under direction in the practice of Clinical Social Work acquired in a period not less than 12 months and not more than 36 months.

(k) For supervision acquired prior to July 1, 1996, one year of supervision means 32 hours of clinical supervision acquired in no less than 12 months or more than 36 months.

(l) For supervision acquired on or after July 1, 1996, one year of supervision means 40 hours of clinical supervision acquired in no less than 12 months or more than 36 months.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-10A-5,43-10A-12.**History.** Original Rule entitled "Clinical Social Workers" was filed on May 23, 1986; effective June 12, 1986. **Amended:** Filed November 7, 1986; effective November 27, 1986. **Amended:** Filed January 20, 1988; effective February 9, 1988. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Feb. 4, 1992; eff. Feb. 24, 1992. **Amended:** F. May 29, 1992; eff. Jun. 18, 1992. **Amended:** F. Jun. 27, 1995; eff. Jul. 17, 1995. **Amended:** F. Jan. 30, 1996; eff. Feb. 19, 1996. **Amended:** F. Oct. 8, 1996; eff. Oct. 28, 1996. **Amended:** F. Mar. 16, 2007; eff. Apr. 5, 2007.

135-5-.05 Associate Marriage and Family Therapists.

(a) Definitions.

1. Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor means a person who is licensed as a marriage and family therapist and who has been approved by the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists to provide supervision of the practice of marriage and family therapy. To obtain such approval the person shall submit an application, with the required fee, on forms provided by the Board documenting: five years of full-time post-licensure experience in the practice of marriage and family therapy; 180 hours of experience providing marriage and family supervision for at least two supervisees during a period of no less than two years and no more than five years; 36 hours of supervision specifically in the skill of providing marriage and family therapy supervision, provided by an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Approved Supervisor or a Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor, a minimum of 24 hours of which shall have been individual supervision-of-supervision; and a recommendation from each of the supervisors who provided supervision-of-supervision attesting to the applicant's competence as a supervisor.

2. Contract for Post-graduate Experience and Supervision means a statement, on forms provided by the Board, made by a person who has completed one of the degree programs required for licensure as either an associate marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist, specifying that person's plan for obtaining the remaining experience and supervision required for licensure as a marriage and family therapist. Such a

statement, once reviewed and approved by the Board, shall be considered a registered contract. A registered contract may be amended, so long as any changes have been approved by the Board.

3. Course in Human Development means a graduate level course in any aspect of human development across the life span, including but not limited to theories of individual development, theories of learning, theories of personality, theories of normal and abnormal behavior, gender, human sexuality and psychopathology.

4. Course in Marriage and Family Studies means a graduate level course in the principles, concepts or history of marriage and family life, family systems, family relations and family development.

5. Course in Marriage and Family Therapy means a graduate level course in the theory and practice of various treatment modalities in marriage and family therapy.

6. Course in Marriage and Family Therapy Ethics means a graduate level course in professional ethics, legal responsibilities and liabilities, standards of practice, licensure regulation, and professional socialization relevant to the practice of marriage and family therapy.

7. Course in Research means a graduate level course in research design, methods and statistics.

8. Direct Clinical Experience means time spent in client contact as therapist or co-therapist, in supervision, in case staffing, or in case consultation.

9. Direction means ongoing oversight by an employer or superior of the work of a person practicing professional counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy. The director shall be responsible for assuring the quality of services rendered by that practitioner, and shall ensure that qualified supervision or intervention occurs in situations which require expertise beyond that of the practitioner. In order to be acceptable to the Marriage and Family Therapy Standards Committee of the Board, a director must attest to having performed the functions specified in this paragraph, and when not an employer must have entered into a contractual agreement with the practitioner to perform these functions.

10. One Year Practicum means twelve months of supervised experience obtained while enrolled in graduate level courses designated as a practicum at an educational institution which, at the time, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

11. Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy means evaluating and treating emotional and mental problems and conditions, whether cognitive, affective or behavioral, resolving intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts, and changing perception, attitudes and behavior; all within the context of marital and family systems. Marriage and family therapy includes, without being limited to, individual, group, couple, sexual, family and

divorce therapy. Marriage and family therapy involves an applied understanding of the dynamics of marital and family therapy systems, including individual psychodynamics, the use of assessment instruments that evaluate marital and family functioning, designing and recommending a course of treatment, and the use of psychotherapy and counseling.

12. Program Equivalent to a Marriage and Family Therapy Degree Program means an organized course of study at an accredited educational institution consisting of a master's degree and additional post-master's degree coursework which includes three courses in marriage and family studies, three courses in marriage and family therapy, three courses in human development, one course in marriage and family therapy ethics, and one course in research.

13. Program in Marriage and Family Therapy means a master's degree program at an accredited educational institution which includes three courses in marriage and family studies, three courses in marriage and family therapy, three courses in human development, one course in marriage and family therapy ethics, and one course in research.

14. Supervision means the direct clinical review, for the purpose of training or teaching, by a supervisor of the interactions with clients of a person practicing professional counseling, social work or marriage and family therapy. Supervision may include, without being limited to, the review of case presentations, audio tapes, video tapes, and direct observation in order to promote the development of the practitioner's clinical skills. Both supervisors and supervisees are required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the date, duration, type (individual, paired, or group), and a brief summary of the pertinent activity for each supervision session to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested.

(b) Requirements for Licensure.

1. Education. The applicant must have earned a master's degree from a program in marriage and family therapy from a program equivalent to a marriage and family therapy degree program, or from any program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. Such program shall be in an educational institution which, at the time the degree was awarded, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

2. Practicum. The applicant must have completed a one year practicum in the practice of marriage and family therapy before or after the granting of the master's degree.

(i) Such practicum shall include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience.

(ii) Such practicum shall include 100 hours of supervision provided by a licensed marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, clinical social worker, psychiatrist or psychologist, who was also an American Association for Marriage and Family

Therapy Approved Supervisor, a Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor, or a person who was receiving supervision-of-supervision in order to qualify for either designation.

3. Contract. The applicant must register an acceptable contract for post-graduate experience and supervision with the Board.

(i) Applicants who have not yet secured employment or begun supervision at the time of their application for licensure may indicate on the contract form that their plan for obtaining experience or supervision is not complete, provided that they submit a completed contract to the Board upon securing employment or beginning supervision.

(ii) Once registered, any proposed change in the contract must be submitted to the Board for approval.

(iii) The Board, at its discretion, may request an update of the contract.

(c) Restrictions on Practice.

1. A person who holds a license as an associate marriage and family therapist may only use the title “associate marriage and family therapist.”

2. A person who holds a license as an associate marriage and family therapist may engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy, but only while under direct supervision, and only for a period not to exceed five years while obtaining the post-master’s experience and supervision required for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-8, 43-10A-11, 43-10A-13, 43-10A-17. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Associate Marriage and Family Therapists” adopted. F. Oct. 8, 1996; eff. Oct. 28, 1996. **Amended:** F. Aug. 29, 1997; eff. Sept. 18, 1997. **Amended:** F. July 6, 1998; eff. July 26, 1998. **Amended:** F. Oct. 11, 2002; eff. Oct. 31, 2002. **Amended:** F. July 12, 2005; eff. Aug. 1, 2005. **Amended:** F. Mar. 21, 2006; eff. Apr. 10, 2006. **Amended:** F. Aug. 2, 2007; eff. Aug. 22, 2007.

135-5-.06 Marriage and Family Therapists.

Pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-10A-13, an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist must meet the following requirements:

(a) Definitions.

1. Approved Practicum or Internship Program means supervised experience obtained while enrolled in graduate level courses designated as a practicum or internship at an educational institution which, at the time, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

2. Board Approved Graduate Level Course means a course in Marriage and Family Studies, Marriage and Family Therapy, or Marriage and Family Therapy Ethics which is

offered by a training institute, is comparable to a graduate level course offered by an accredited educational institution, and has received prior approval by the Board. To obtain such approval, the training institute shall submit a course outline, a reading list, a bibliography, a curriculum vita for each instructor, and the required fee to the Board. Applications must include evidence that: the course content is organized around at least one major accepted comprehensive book and additional ancillary readings; the readings represent the current state of thinking in the field of marriage and family therapy and are of a depth comparable to a graduate level course; the course includes a minimum of 45 hours of classroom instruction; the course includes at least one comprehensive examination on which students must achieve a score of 80% or better in order to receive credit; and the instructor is licensed as either a marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, clinical social worker, psychologist, or psychiatrist, demonstrates specific training in the field of marriage and family therapy, and has at least five years post-licensure experience in the practice of marriage and family therapy. Such approval shall be for a period of three years, and shall expire unless renewed prior to the end of that period.

3. Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor means a person who is licensed as a marriage and family therapist and who has been approved by the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapist to provide supervision of the practice of marriage and family therapy. To obtain such approval the person shall submit an application, with the required fee, on forms provided by the Board documenting: five years of full-time post-licensure experience in the practice of marriage and family therapy; 180 hours of experience providing marriage and family therapy supervision for at least two supervisees during the period of no less than two years and no more than five years; 36 hours of supervision specifically in the skill of providing marriage and family therapy supervision, provided by an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Approved Supervisor or a Board Approved Marriage and Therapy Supervisor, a minimum of 24 hours of which shall have been individual supervision- of-supervision; and a recommendation from each of the supervisors who provided supervision-of-supervision attesting to the applicant's competence as a supervisor.

4. Contract for Post-graduate Experience and Supervision means a statement on forms provided by the Board, made by a person who has completed one of the degree programs required for licensure as either an associate marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist, specifying that person's plan for obtaining the remaining experience and supervision required for licensure as a marriage and family therapist. Such a statement, once reviewed and approved by the Board, shall be considered a registered contract. A registered contract may be amended, so long as any changes have been approved by the Board.

5. Course in Clinical Content Area means a graduate level course in the etiology, dynamics, evaluation, assessment, or treatment of emotional or behavioral problems and conditions. .

6. Course in Marriage and Family Studies means a graduate level course in the principles, concepts or history of marriage and family life, family systems, family relations and family development.

7. Course in Marriage and Family Therapy means a graduate level course in the theory and practice of various treatment modalities in marriage and family therapy.

8. Course in Marriage and Family Therapy Ethics means a graduate level course in professional ethics, legal responsibilities and liabilities, standards of practice, licensure regulation, and professional socialization relevant to the practice of marriage and family therapy.

9. Direct Clinical Experience means time spent in client contact as therapist or co-therapist, in supervision, in case staffing, or in case consultation.

10. Direction means ongoing oversight by an employer or superior of the work of a person practicing professional counseling, social work or marriage and family therapy. The director shall be responsible for assuring the quality of services rendered by that practitioner, and shall ensure that qualified supervision or intervention occurs in situations which require expertise beyond that of the practitioner. In order to be acceptable to the Marriage and Family Therapy Standards Committee of the Board, a director must attest to having performed the functions specified in this paragraph, and when not an employer must have entered into a contractual agreement with the practitioner to perform these functions.

11. Full-time Experience means a minimum of 20 hours per week spent in direct clinical experience.

12. Group Supervision means a maximum of six supervisees meeting with one supervisor.

13. Individual Supervision means a maximum of two supervisees meeting with one supervisor.

14. One Year means twelve months, or any periods of time which sum to twelve months.

15. Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy means evaluating and treating emotional and mental problems and conditions, whether cognitive, affective or behavioral, resolving intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts, and changing perception, attitudes and behavior; all within the context of marital and family systems. Marriage and family therapy includes, without being limited to, individual, group, couple, sexual, family and divorce therapy. Marriage and family therapy involves an applied understanding of the dynamics of marital and family therapy systems, including individual psychodynamics, the use of assessment instruments that evaluate marital and family functioning, designing and recommending a course of treatment, and the use of psychotherapy and counseling.

16. Supervision means the direct clinical review for the purpose of training or teaching, by a supervisor of the interactions with clients of a person practicing professional counseling, social work or marriage and family therapy. Supervision may include, without being limited to, the review of case presentations, audio tapes, video tapes, and direct observation in order to promote the development of the practitioner's clinical skills. Both supervisors and supervisees are required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the date, duration, type (individual, paired, or group), and a brief summary of the pertinent activity for each supervision session to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested.

(b) An applicant who holds a current license as an associate marriage and family therapist must meet the following requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.

1. Experience. The applicant must document two years of fulltime post-master's experience or its equivalent, under direction and supervision.

(i) Such experience shall have been in the practice of marriage and family therapy and shall include a minimum of 2,000 hours of direct clinical experience.

(ii) For applicants who have worked less than full-time, equivalent experience may be accrued over a total of not less than two years and not more than five years.

2. Supervision. The applicant must have obtained 100 hours of supervision, concurrent with his/her documented experience.

(i) Such supervision shall have been provided by a licensed marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, clinical social worker, psychiatrist or psychologist.

(ii) A minimum of 50 of these 100 hours must have been in individual supervision and a maximum of 50 of these 100 hours may have been in group supervision.

3. Examination Waived. The applicant is not required to re-take the Examination in Marriage and Family Therapy following Board approval of his/her application for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.

(c) An applicant who holds a master's degree must meet the following requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.

1. Education. The applicant must have earned a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, counseling, social work, medicine, applied psychology, psychiatric nursing, pastoral counseling, applied child and family development, applied sociology, or from any program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. Such degree shall be from an educational institution which, at the time the degree was awarded, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

(i) A degree in psychology, child and family development or sociology shall be considered an applied degree and a degree in divinity or theology shall be considered a degree in pastoral counseling if the applicant has completed, as part of the degree program or as additional post-master's coursework, two courses in clinical content areas, in addition to the five courses described in (ii) below, and an approved practicum or internship, which shall include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience in the practice of professional counseling, clinical social work or marriage and family therapy.

(ii) The applicant shall have completed, as part of the degree program or as additional post-master's coursework, at least two courses in Marriage and Family Therapy, two courses in Marriage and Family Studies, and one course in Marriage and Family Therapy Ethics. These courses shall have been obtained from an educational institution accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation or from a training institute which offers Board approved graduate level courses.

(iii) A person who has completed one of the required master's degrees with the intention of pursuing licensure as a marriage and family therapist may, but is not required to, register a contract for post-graduate experience and supervision with the Board.

2. Experience. The applicant must document three years of fulltime post-master's experience of its equivalent, under direction and supervision, which shall include a minimum of 2,500 hours of direct clinical experience.

(i) One year of such experience may have been in an approved practicum before or after the granting of the master's degree, which shall include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience in the practice of professional counseling, clinical social work or marriage and family therapy.

(ii) At least two years of such experience shall have been in the practice of marriage and family therapy, which shall include a minimum of 2,000 hours of direct clinical experience.

(iii) For applicants who have worked less than full-time, equivalent experience may be accrued over a total of not less than three years and not more than five years.

3. Supervision. The applicant must have obtained 200 hours of supervision, concurrent with his/her documented experience.

(i) Such supervision shall have been provided by a licensed marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, clinical social worker, psychiatrist or psychologist.

(ii) At least 100 hours of such supervision shall have been provided by an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Approved Supervisor, a Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor, or a person who was receiving supervision-of-

supervision in order to qualify for either designation. A minimum of 50 of these 100 hours must have been in individual supervision and a maximum of 50 of these 100 hours may have been in group supervision.

(iii) Up to 100 hours of such supervision may have been obtained during an approved practicum before or after the granting of the master's degree.

(d) An applicant who holds a doctoral degree must meet the following requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.

1. Education. The applicant must have earned a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy, counseling, social work, medicine, applied psychology, psychiatric nursing, pastoral counseling, applied child and family development, applied sociology, or from any program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. Such degree shall be from an educational institution which, at the time the degree was awarded, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

(i) A degree in psychology, child and family development or sociology shall be considered an applied degree and a degree in divinity or theology shall be considered a degree in pastoral counseling if the applicant has completed, as part of the degree program or as additional post-doctoral coursework, two courses in clinical content areas, in addition to the five courses described in (ii) below, and an approved practicum or internship, which shall include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience in the practice of professional counseling, clinical social work or marriage and family therapy.

(ii) The applicant shall have completed, as part of a master's or doctoral degree program, or as additional post-graduate degree coursework, at least two courses in Marriage and Family Therapy, two courses in Marriage and Family Studies, and one course in Marriage and Family Therapy Ethics. These courses shall have been obtained from an educational institution accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation or from a training institute which offers Board approved graduate level courses.

(iii) A person who has completed one of the required doctoral degrees with the intention of pursuing licensure as a marriage and family therapist may, but is not required to, register a contract for post-graduate experience and supervision with the Board.

2. Experience. The applicant must document two years of fulltime post-master's or post-doctorate experience in the practice of marriage and family therapy, under direction and supervision, which shall include a minimum of 1,500 hours of direct clinical experience.

(i) One year of such experience may have been in an approved internship program before or after the granting of the doctoral degree, which shall include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience.

(ii) At least one year of such experience shall have been full-time post-master's or post-doctorate experience, which shall include a minimum of 1,000 hours of direct clinical experience.

3. Supervision. The applicant must have obtained 100 hours of supervision, concurrent with their documented experience.

(i) Such supervision shall have been provided by a licensed marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, clinical social worker, psychiatrist or psychologist, who was also an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Approved Supervisor, a Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor, or a person who was receiving supervision-of-supervision in order to qualify for either designation.

(ii) A maximum of 50 of these 100 hours may have been obtained during the applicant's doctoral degree or internship program.

(iii) A minimum of 50 of these 100 hours must have been in individual supervision and a maximum of 50 of these 100 hours may have been in group supervision.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-8, 43-10A-13. **History:** Original Rule entitled "Marriage and Family Therapists" adopted. F. Jan. 13, 1997; eff. Feb. 2, 1997. **Amended:** F. Aug. 29, 1997; eff. Sept. 18, 1997. **Amended:** F. July 6, 1998; eff. July 26, 1998. **Amended:** F. Oct. 11, 2002; eff. Oct. 31, 2002. **Amended:** F. Mar. 21, 2006; eff. Apr. 10, 2006. **Amended:** F. Mar. 16, 2007; eff. Apr. 5, 2007.

CHAPTER 135-6

REGULATION OF LICENSES

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135-6-.01 Display of Licenses.

Licensed Professional Counselors, Master's Social Workers, Clinical Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists shall display their license and evidence of renewal in a conspicuous place in their office or place of business or employment.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-7A-5, 43-7A-15, 43-7A-16. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Display of Licenses" adopted. F. Jan. 20, 1988; eff. Feb. 9, 1988.

135-6-.02 Change of Name or Address.

It is the duty of each licensee to notify the Board in writing of any change of name or address from that previously filed with the Board. A notice of change of name must be accompanied by a certified copy of a marriage certificate, court order or other legal document.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-7A-5, 43-7A-15, 43-7A-16. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Change of Name or Address" adopted. F. Jan. 20, 1988; eff. Feb. 9, 1988.

135-6-.03 Biennial Renewal Cycle. Amended.

- (1) All licenses shall expire on September 30 of even numbered years.
- (2) Renewal notices are only sent as an accommodation. The responsibility of license renewal remains with the license holder.
- (3) The applicant for renewal shall submit to the Board, on or before June 30 of even numbered years:
 - (a) a completed application for renewal;
 - (b) the biennial renewal fee (See Fee Schedule);
 - (c) Evidence of having satisfied the continuing education requirement during the preceding two year period, beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of even numbered years.
- (4) Applications for renewal of licenses submitted between July 1 and September 30 of even numbered years will be considered late and will be required to pay a late fee (See Fee Schedule).

(5) Unless the license is renewed on or before September 30 of even numbered years, continued practice after such date shall constitute unlawful practice and is grounds for discipline.

(6) If an application for renewal is submitted to the Board within 3 months of expiration of the license, the licensee must pay a penalty fee as assessed by the Board (See Fee Schedule). Failure to renew a license by the end of the established penalty period, which is December 31 of the renewal year, shall have the same effect as a revocation and reinstatement of the revoked license shall be in the discretion of the Board.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-7A-5, 43-7A-15, 43-7A-16, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-11, 43-10A-15, 43-10A-16. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Biennial Renewal Cycle" adopted. F. Jan. 20, 1988; eff. Feb. 9, 1988. **Amended:** F. June 27, 1995; eff. July 17, 1995. **Amended:** F. June 28, 2001; eff. July 18, 2001. **Amended:** F. Oct. 22, 2002; eff. Nov. 11, 2002.

135-6-.04 Revocation of Expired Licenses and Reinstatement of Expired Licenses.

(1) Failure to renew a license by the end of the established penalty period, which is December 31, shall have the same effect as a revocation of said license and reinstatement of the license shall be in the discretion of the Board. If an application for reinstatement is submitted to the Board after December 31 of even numbered years but within one year of the expiration date of the license, the Board shall require the submission of an application for reinstatement, documentation of 35 hours of continuing education activities that were completed within two years of the date the application is received by the Board, and payment of a penalty fee as set by the Board (See Fee Schedule). At its discretion, the Board may require additional information.

(2) If an application for reinstatement is submitted to the Board more than one year after the expiration of a license, an applicant must apply for licensure by examination following the procedures set out in Chapter 135-3. The applicant must satisfy the current requirements for licensure at the time of reinstatement as set out in Chapter 135-5. In order to meet these requirements, the applicant may use any qualifying education, experience and supervision, including any which were applied toward his/her previous application for licensure, but must, upon approval of his/her application by the Board, take and pass the licensing examination.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-7A-5, 43-7A-15, 43-7A-16, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-15, 43-10A-16. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Reinstatement of Expired Licenses" adopted. F. Jan. 20, 1988; eff. Feb. 9, 1988. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. June 22, 2000; eff. July 12, 2000. **Amended:** Rule retitled "Revocation of Expired Licenses and Reinstatement of Revoked Licenses". F. Oct. 22, 2002; eff. Nov. 11, 2002.

135-6-.05 Repealed.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-4, 43-1-19, 43-7A-5, 43-7A-15, 43-7A-16, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-16. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Revocation for Failure to Renew" adopted. F. Jan. 20, 1988; eff. Feb. 9, 1988. **Repealed:** F. Oct. 22, 2002; eff. Nov. 11, 2002.

135-6-.06 Inactive Status. Amended.

(1) A licensee who does not intend to practice in Georgia and who therefore does not intend to practice or to use the title Professional Counselor, Social Worker, or Marriage And Family Therapist may apply to convert an active license to inactive status. An

individual who holds an inactive license will not be required to renew their license or to satisfy the biennial renewal requirements.

(2) A license may remain inactive for no more than six years. If a licensee has not applied to reactivate their license before the six year deadline, the license will be revoked for failure to reactivate. In order to obtain a new license, a person whose license has been revoked for failure to reactivate must apply for licensure by examination following the procedure set out in Chapter 135-3. The applicant must satisfy the current requirements for licensure set out in Chapter 135-5. In order to meet these requirements the applicant may use any qualifying education, experience and supervision, including any which was applied toward their previous application for licensure, but must, upon approval of their application by the Board, take and pass the licensing examination.

(3) A person who holds an active license may apply for inactive status in the following manner:

(a) Request in writing that the Board place the license into inactive status;

(b) Submit an affidavit affirming that while on inactive status the licensee will not in any way indicate or imply: that they hold an active Georgia license; or that they practice as a Professional Counselor, Social Worker, or Marriage and Family Therapist; or use within the State of Georgia any words, letters, titles or figures which indicate that they are a Professional Counselor, Social Worker, or Marriage and Family Therapist; and

(c) Submit their biennial renewal license, but retain their decorative wall certificate.

(4) A person who holds an inactive license may apply to reactivate their license in the following manner:

(a) Submit an Application for Reactivation;

(b) Submit the reactivation fee (see fee schedule); and

(c) Submit evidence that the licensee has satisfied the current continuing education requirement for renewal set out in Chapter 135-9. Such evidence shall include a description of the continuing education activities completed, along with photostatic copies of the documentation outlined in Rule 135-9-.03.

(5) Upon receipt of the application, fee and continuing education documents the Board shall reactivate the applicant's original license.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-2. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Inactive Status" adopted. F. Aug. 21, 1990; eff. Sept. 10, 1990. **Amended:** F. June 27, 1995; eff. July 17, 1995.

CHAPTER 135-7

CODE OF ETHICS

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An individual who is licensed as a Professional Counselor, Master's Social Worker, Clinical Social Worker or Marriage and Family Therapist shall abide by the following code of ethics.

135-7-.01 Responsibility to Clients.

(1) A licensee's primary professional responsibility is to the client. The licensee shall make every reasonable effort to promote the welfare, autonomy and best interests of families and individuals, including respecting the rights of those persons seeking assistance, obtaining informed consent, and making reasonable efforts to ensure that the licensee's services are used appropriately.

(2) Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) exploiting relationships with clients for personal or financial advantages;

(b) using any confidence of a client to the client's disadvantage;

(c) participating in dual relationships with clients that create a conflict of interest which could impair the licensee's professional judgment, harm the client, or compromise the therapy;

(d) undertaking a course of treatment when the client, or the client's representative, does not understand and agree with the treatment goals;

(e) knowingly withholding information about accepted and prevailing treatment alternatives that differ from those provided by the licensee;

(f) failing to inform the client of any contractual obligations, limitations, or requirements resulting from an agreement between the licensee and a third party payer which could influence the course of the client's treatment;

(g) when there are clear and established risks to the client, failing to provide the client with a description of any foreseeable negative consequences of the proposed treatment;

(h) charging a fee for anything without having informed the client in advance of the fee;

(i) taking any action for nonpayment of fees without first advising the client of the intended action and providing the client with an opportunity to settle the debt;

- (j) when termination or interruption of service to the client is anticipated, failing to notify the client promptly and failing to assist the client in seeking alternative services consistent with the client's needs and preferences;
- (k) failing to terminate a client relationship when it is reasonably clear that the treatment no longer serves the client's needs or interest;
- (l) delegating professional responsibilities to another person when the licensee delegating the responsibilities knows or has reason to know that such person is not qualified by training, by experience, or by licensure to perform them; and
- (m) failing to provide information regarding a client's evaluation or treatment, in a timely fashion and to the extent deemed prudent and clinically appropriate by the licensee, when that information has been requested and released by the client.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-7A-5(d). **History.** Original Rule entitled "Responsibility to Clients" was filed on Oct. 19, 1987; eff. Nov. 8, 1987. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Feb. 28, 2000; eff. Mar. 19, 2000.

135-7-.02 Integrity.

- (1) The licensee shall act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity and competence. The licensee is honest in dealing with clients, students, trainees, colleagues, and the public. The licensee seeks to eliminate incompetence or dishonesty from the profession.
- (2) Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) practicing inhumane or discriminatory treatment toward any person or group of persons;
 - (b) engaging in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation while performing professional activities;
 - (c) engaging in sexual activities or sexual advances with any client, trainee, or student;
 - (d) practicing while under the influence of alcohol or drugs not prescribed by a licensed physician;
 - (e) practicing in an area in which the licensee has not obtained university level graduate training or substantially equivalent supervised experience;
 - (f) failing either to obtain supervision or consultation, or to refer the client to a qualified practitioner, who faced with treatment, assessment or evaluation issues beyond the licensee's competence;
 - (g) accepting or giving a fee or anything of value for making or receiving a referral;
 - (h) using an institutional affiliation to solicit clients for the licensee's private practice; and
 - (i) allowing an individual or agency that is paying for the professional services to exert undue influence over the licensee's evaluation or treatment of a client.

Authority O.C.G.A. 43-7A-5(d). **History.** Original Rule entitled "Integrity" was filed on October 19, 1987; effective November 8, 1987. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Feb. 28, 2000; eff. Mar. 19, 2000.

135-7-.03 Confidentiality.

- (1) The licensee holds in confidence all information obtained at any time during the course of a professional relationship, beginning with the first professional contact. The licensee safeguards clients' confidences as permitted by law.
- (2) Unprofessional conduct includes but is not limited to the following:
 - (a) revealing a confidence of a client, whether living or deceased, to anyone except:
 1. as required by law;

2. after obtaining the consent of the client, when the client is a legally competent adult, or the legal custodian, when the client is a minor or a mentally incapacitated adult. The licensee shall provide a description of the information to be revealed and the persons to whom the information will be revealed prior to obtaining such consent. When more than one client has participated in the therapy, the licensee may reveal information regarding only those clients who have consented to the disclosure;
 3. where the licensee is a defendant in a civil, criminal, or disciplinary action arising from the therapy, in which case client confidences may be disclosed in the course of that action;
 4. where there is clear and imminent danger to the client or others, in which case the licensee shall take whatever reasonable steps are necessary to protect those at risk including, but not limited to, warning any identified victims and informing the responsible authorities; and
 5. when discussing case material with a professional colleague for the purpose of consultation or supervision;
- (b) failing to obtain written, informed consent from each client before electronically recording sessions with that client or before permitting third party observation of their sessions;
 - (c) failing to store or dispose of client records in a way that maintains confidentiality, and when providing any client with access to that client's records, failing to protect the confidences of other persons contained in that record;
 - (d) failing to protect the confidences of the client from disclosure by employees, associates, and others whose services are utilized by the licensee; and
 - (e) failing to disguise adequately the identity of a client when using material derived from a counseling relationship for purposes of training or research.

Authority O.C.G.A. 43-7A-5(d). **History.** Original Rule entitled "Confidentiality" was filed on October 19, 1987; effective November 8, 1987. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Feb. 28, 2000; eff. Mar. 19, 2000.

135-7-.04 Responsibility to Colleagues.

- (1) The licensee respects the rights and responsibilities of professional colleagues and, as the employee of an organization, remains accountable as an individual to the ethical principles of the profession. The licensee treats colleagues with respect and good faith, and relates to the clients of colleagues with full professional consideration.
- (2) Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) soliciting the clients of colleagues or assuming professional responsibility for clients of another agency or colleague without appropriate communication with that agency or colleague;
 - (b) failing to maintain the confidences shared by colleagues and supervisees in the course of professional relationships and transactions;
 - (c) when a supervisee is unlicensed, failing to inform the supervisee of the legal limitations on unlicensed practice;
 - (d) when a supervisor is aware that a supervisee is engaging in any unethical, unprofessional or deleterious conduct, failing to provide the supervisee with a forthright evaluation and appropriate recommendations regarding such practice; and
 - (e) taking credit for work not personally performed, whether by giving inaccurate information or failing to give accurate information.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-7A-5(d). **History.** Original Rule entitled “Responsibility to Colleagues” was filed on Oct. 19, 1987; eff. Nov. 8, 1987. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Feb. 28, 2000; eff. Mar. 19, 2000.

135-7-.05 Assessment Instruments.

(1) When using assessment instruments or techniques, the licensee shall make every effort to promote the welfare and best interests of the client. The licensee guards against the misuse of assessment results, and respects the client's right to know the results, the interpretations and the basis for any conclusions or recommendations.

(2) Unprofessional conduct, includes but is not limited to the following:

(a) failing to provide the client with an orientation to the purpose of testing or the proposed use of the test results prior to administration of assessment instruments or techniques;

(b) failing to consider the specific validity, reliability, and appropriateness of test measures for use in a given situation or with a particular client;

(c) using unsupervised or inadequately supervised test-taking techniques with clients, such as testing through the mail, unless the test is specifically self-administered or self-scored;

(d) administering test instruments either beyond the licensee's competence for scoring and interpretation or outside of the licensee's scope of practice, as defined by law; and

(e) failing to make available to the client, upon request, copies of documents in the possession of the licensee which have been prepared for and paid for by the client.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-7A-5(d). **History.** Original Rule entitled “Assessment Instruments” was filed on Oct. 19, 1987; eff. Nov. 8, 1987. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Feb. 28, 2000; eff. Mar. 19, 2000.

135-7-.06 Research.

(1) The licensee recognizes that research activities must be conducted with full respect for the rights and dignity of participants and with full concern for their welfare. Participation in research must be voluntary unless it can be demonstrated that involuntary participation will have no harmful effects on the subjects and is essential to the investigation.

(2) Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

(a) failing to consider carefully the possible consequences for human beings participating in the research;

(b) failing to protect each research participant from unwarranted physical and mental harm;

(c) failing to ascertain that the consent of the research participant is voluntary and informed;

(d) failing to treat information obtained through research as confidential;

(e) knowingly reporting distorted, erroneous, or misleading information.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-7A-5(d). **History.** Original Rule entitled “Research” was filed on Oct. 19, 1987; eff. Nov. 8, 1987. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Feb. 28, 2000; eff. Mar. 19, 2000.

135-7-.07 Advertising and Professional Representation.

(1) The licensee adheres to professional rather than commercial standards when making known their availability for professional services. The licensee may provide information

that accurately informs the public of the professional services, expertise, and techniques available.

(2) Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

(a) intentionally misrepresenting the licensee's professional competence, education, training, and experience, or knowingly failing to correct any misrepresentations provided by others;

(b) using as a credential an academic degree in a manner which is intentionally misleading or deceiving to the public;

(c) intentionally providing information that contains false, inaccurate, misleading, partial, out-of-context, or otherwise deceptive statements about the licensee's professional services, or knowingly failing to correct inaccurate information provided by others; and

(d) making claims or guarantees which promise more than the licensee can realistically provide.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-7A-5(d). **History.** Original Rule entitled "Advertising and Professional Representation" was filed on Oct. 19, 1987; eff. Nov. 8, 1987. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Feb. 28, 2000; eff. Mar. 19, 2000.

CHAPTER 135-8

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND PROCEDURES

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135-8-.01 Complaints

135-8-.02 Investigation of Complaints

135-8-.03 Disciplinary Proceedings

135-8-.01 Complaints.

(1) A complaint may be filed by any person by submitting a written statement to the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

(2) The complaint shall include the complainant's name, address, and phone number, shall be signed by the complainant, and shall give the name and address of the person or business entity against whom the complaint is being filed.

(3) The complaint must specifically state the circumstances which led to the complaint being filed.

(4) While a complaint is under investigation, the name of the person or business entity against whom the complaint is being filed shall be treated as confidential, as provided in O.C.G.A. 43-1-19(h)(2). However, the name of the person or business entity will no longer be treated as confidential once the Board takes an official action which places it into the public record.

(5) Once a Board member becomes aware of the identity of a person who is the subject of a complaint, and the Board member has a personal relationship with that person which would affect the Board member's judgment, or has prior knowledge of the person's practice which would affect the Board member's judgment, the Board member shall immediately disclose to the Board such relationship or knowledge, and shall not participate in the deliberation or the vote on the complaint; however, nothing herein shall preclude any Board member from giving testimony in the matter.

Authority O.C.G.A. 43-7A-17; 43-7A-5, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-17. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Complaints" adopted. F. Mar. 25, 1988; eff. Apr. 14, 1988. **Amended:** F. Aug. 16, 2001; eff. Sept. 5, 2001.

135-8-.02 Investigation of Complaints.

(1) The Board or its duly appointed representative will review each complaint and initiate whatever investigative action is appropriate.

(2) All investigations shall be conducted as provided by the laws of the State of Georgia, including but not limited to the Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. 50-13-1 et seq.); O.C.G.A. 43-1-1 et seq.; the Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists Licensing Law (O.C.G.A. 43-10A-1 et seq.); the Rules of the Division Director, Professional Licensing Boards Division; and the Rules of the Georgia

Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-7A-5, 43-7A-17, 43-10A-17. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Investigation of Complaints" adopted. F. Mar. 25, 1988; eff. Apr. 14, 1988. **Amended:** F. Aug. 16, 2001; eff. Sept. 5, 2001.

135-8-.03 Disciplinary Proceedings.

All disciplinary proceedings, including hearings in contested cases, shall be conducted as provided by the laws of the State of Georgia, including but not limited to the Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. 50-13-1 et seq.); O.C.G.A. 43-1-1 et seq.; the Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists Licensing Laws (O.C.G.A. 43-10-A-1 et seq.); the Rules of the Division Director, Professional Licensing Boards Division; and the Rules of Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-7A-5, 43-7A-17, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-17. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Disciplinary Proceedings" adopted. F. Mar. 25, 1988; eff. Apr. 14, 1988. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 16, 2001; eff. Sept. 5, 2001

CHAPTER 135-9

CONTINUING EDUCATION

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135-9-.01 Requirements

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135-9-.01 Requirements.

(1) Thirty five (35) clock hours of continuing education are required biennially to renew each license.

(2) A minimum of five (5) of the 35 hours shall be specifically designated as continuing education in professional ethics relating to any of the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, or Marriage and Family Therapy. Ethics hours may be obtained from any of the sources listed in (4) and (5)(a) - (d) below. Continuing education hours in professional ethics cannot be obtained through independent study.

(3) Of the remaining 30 hours, a minimum of 15 shall be core hours and not more than 15 shall be related hours.

(4) Core hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in the specialty in which the license is held. Core hours may be obtained through graduate level education, conferences, workshops, correspondence courses, distance learning techniques or other methods approved for continuing education by organizations authorized to offer credit for continuing education. Such activities shall be sponsored, co-sponsored or approved by:

(a) a professional association in the specialty in which the license is held; or

(b) an academic department in the specialty in which the license is held:

1. Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialty in which the license is held and when the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board. Graduate level coursework listed on the transcript as "independent studies" must be well documented in order to be accepted by the Composite Board. Documentation can include, but is not limited to, a contract signed by the instructor of record.

2. One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent to 15 hours of continuing education, and an one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to 10 clock hours of continuing education, or

(c) a licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialty in which the license is held. If the board is a composite board, the activity must be specifically approved for continuing education in the specialty in which the license is held

(5) Related hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in a specialty other than the one in which the license is held or in the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, or Pastoral Counseling. Related hours may be obtained from:

(a) activities sponsored, co sponsored, or approved by professional associations in the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions for Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, Pastoral Counseling, or allied health specialties, or

(b) activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by an academic department in the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, or Pastoral Counseling.

1. Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatry Nursing, Psychology, or Pastoral Counseling and the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board.

2. One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent of 15 clock hours of continuing education, and an one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to 10 clock hours of continuing education; or

(c) activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by a licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, or Pastoral Counseling; or

(d) activities sponsored by federal, state, or local government agencies, public school systems and licensed hospitals; or

(e) independent study activities such as: teaching a course, presenting a lecture, or conducting a workshop for the first time; listening to audiotapes; viewing videotapes; reading; editing or writing professional books or articles; and conducting professional research. The licensee shall submit an affidavit attesting to number of hours of independent study completed. No more than five (5) hours of continuing education shall be in independent study. Ethics hours may not be obtained through independent study.

(6) The professional association, academic department, licensing or certification board, state, or local government agency, public school system or licensed hospital that sponsors, co-sponsors or approves the continuing education activity shall certify the number of clock hours of education content in each activity. Providers who measure continuing education activities in "Continuing Education Units" (CEU's) shall define one (1) CEU as 10 clock hours of continuing education.

(7) A Standards Committee may, in its discretion, accept continuing education hours obtained from sources substantially similar to those listed in (4) and (5) above.

(8) No more than twenty (20) hours of continuing education shall be from any one course, workshop, or presentation. This limit does not apply to professional conferences which offer multiple presentation.

(9) Any continuing education hour may be applied towards the renewal of a license in more than one specialty, provided that the continuing education hour meets the requirements set out in (4) or (5) above.

(10) Continuing education hours earned in professional ethics exceeding the five required for renewal may be applied to meet requirements for core or related hours when they meet the requirements set out in (4) or (5) above.

(11) If, at the Board's request, a license completes a peer review of an alleged violation of the law or the Board's Rules, the licensee shall satisfy the five (5) hours of continuing education required in professional ethics. Such a review must be submitted as a written report to the Board.

(12) When the license is initially issued during the second year of the renewal period after October 1 of the odd numbered year the continuing education requirements are deemed, by the Board, to impose an undue hardship upon the licensee: therefore, no continuing education is required for renewal. At the next renewal cycle the licensee must comply with all continuing education requirements specified in the Board Rules, Chapter 135-9.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-7A-26, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-6, 43-10A-16, 43-10A-26. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Requirements" adopted. F. July 27, 1988; eff. Aug. 16, 1988. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Sept. 5, 1989; eff. Sept. 25, 1989. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 10, 1992; eff. Aug. 30, 1992. **Amended:** F. Dec. 3, 1992; eff. Dec. 23, 1992. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Apr. 10, 1996; eff. Apr. 30, 1996. **Amended:** F. Dec. 9, 1997; eff. Dec. 29, 1997. **Amended:** F. Jan. 5, 2001; eff. Jan. 25, 2001. **Amended:** F. May 18, 2001; eff. June 7, 2001.

135-9-.02 Documentation.

(1) Each licensee shall maintain for three years their own record of the continuing education activities which they have completed. The Board will not maintain continuing education files for licensees.

(2) Licensees shall attest, on their biennial license renewal application, that they have satisfied the continuing education requirements set out in Rule 135-9-.01. Documentation of these activities should be retained by the licensee and not sent to the Board. False attestation of satisfaction of the continuing education requirements on a renewal application shall subject the licensee to disciplinary action, including revocation.

(3) The Board will audit a fixed percentage of the renewal applications. Licensees whose applications are audited will be required to document their continuing education activities. Except for independent study, such documents must be in the form of a certificate of attendance, a statement signed by the provider verifying participation in the activity, or an official transcript. Documentation of independent study shall be in the form of an affidavit which includes a description of the activity, the subject material covered, the dates and numbers of hours involved.

(a) In the event an audited licensee fails to provide the Board with documentation of the hours attested to on their renewal application, the license will not be renewed.

(b) If, following the audit, the Board disqualifies any of the documented continuing education hours and the licensee no longer meets the requirements set out in Rule 135-9-.01, the license will be renewed under the condition that the licensee obtains the required continuing education hours within six months of the notice of deficiency. If the licensee does not cure the deficiency within this six month period, the license will be subject to revocation for failure to comply with the continuing education requirements.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-7A-26, 43-1-25, 43-10A-16, 43-10A-26. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Sources" adopted. F. July 27, 1988; eff. Aug. 16, 1988. **Amended:** F. Sept. 5, 1989; eff. Sept. 25, 1989. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Documentation" adopted. F. Aug. 10, 1992; eff. Aug. 30, 1992.

135-9-.03 Repealed.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-7A-26, 43-1-25, 43-10A-16. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Documentation” adopted. F. July 27, 1988; eff. Aug. 16, 1988. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 21, 1990; eff. Sept. 10, 1990. **Repealed:** F. Aug. 10, 1992; eff. Aug. 30, 1992.

CHAPTER 135-10

ADVERTISING

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135-10-.01 Licensees.

The title Professional Counselor, Master's Social Worker, Clinical Social Worker or Marriage and Family Therapist may be used only by a person who holds such license. Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-10A-21. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Without Any License" was F. Aug. 21, 1990; eff. Sept. 10, 1990. **Amended:** Rule retitled "Licenses", F. Oct. 10, 1991; eff. Oct. 30, 1991.

135-10-.02 Without Any License. Amended.

Persons who do not hold any valid license issued by the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists:

- (a) may not advertise that they are licensed by the Board;
- (b) may not use any words, letters, titles, or figures indicating or implying that they are licensed by the Board;
- (c) may not use any words, letters, titles or figures indicating or implying that they are a Professional Counselor, Social Worker, or Marriage and Family Therapist, including but not limited to the following:

Professional Counselor	Professional Counseling
Professional Career Counselor	Professional Career Counseling
Professional College Counselor	Professional College Counseling
Professional EAP Counselor	Professional EAP Counseling
Professional Group Counselor	Professional Group Counseling
Professional Military Counselor	Professional Military Counseling
Professional School Counselor	Professional School Counseling
Professional Correctional Counselor	Professional Correctional Counseling
Professional Educational Counselor	Professional Educational Counseling
Professional Employment Counselor	Professional Employment Counseling
Professional Mental Health Counselor	Professional Mental Health Counseling

Professional Public Offender
Counselor
Professional Rehabilitation
Counselor

Professional Public Offender
Counseling
Professional Rehabilitation
Counseling

Social Worker
Clinical Social Worker
Master's Social Worker
Professional Social Worker
Psychiatric Social Worker
Medical Social Worker
Group Social Worker
Marriage (Marital) and Family
Therapist
Marriage (Marital) and Family
Counselor
Marriage (Marital) Therapist
Marriage (Marital) Counselor
Family Therapist
Family Counselor

Social Work
Clinical Social Work
Master's Social Work
Professional Social Work
Psychiatric Social Work
Medical Social Work
Group Social Work
Marriage (Marital) and Family
Therapy
Marriage (Marital) and Family
Counseling
Marriage (Marital) Therapy
Marriage (Marital) Counseling
Family Therapy
Family Counseling

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-10A-21. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Practice in Business Entities" was f. Aug. 21, 1990; eff. Sept. 10, 1990. **Amended:** Rule retitled "Without Any License". F. Oct. 10, 1991; eff. Oct. 30, 1991.

135-10-.03 Practice in Business Entities. Amended.

Persons who do not hold any valid license issued by the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists may not practice Professional Counseling, Social Work, or Marriage and Family Therapy for any corporation, partnership, association, or business entity which uses in its name any of the words, letters, titles, or figures enumerated in Rule 135-10-.02.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-10A-21. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Exceptions" was f. Aug. 21, 1990; eff. Sept. 10, 1990. **Amended:** Rule retitled "Practice in Business Entities". F. Oct. 10, 1991; eff. Oct. 30, 1991.

135-10-.04 Exceptions. Amended.

The prohibitions set out in Rule 135-10-.02 shall not apply to persons exempt under O.C.G.A. 43-10A-7(b). The prohibitions set out in Rule 135-10-.03 shall not apply to persons exempt under O.C.G.A. 43-10A-7(c).

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-10A-21. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Business Entities" was f. Aug. 21, 1990; eff. Sept. 10, 1990. **Amended:** Rule retitled "Exceptions". F. Oct. 10, 1991; eff. Oct. 30, 1991.

135-10-.05 Business Entities. Amended.

If any employee, officer or agent of a corporation, partnership, association or business entity is practicing Professional Counseling, Social Work, or Marriage and Family Therapy, but does not hold any valid license issued by the Georgia Composite Board of

Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists, that business entity may not use in its name any of the words, letters, titles or figures enumerated in Rule 135-10-.02. However, this prohibition shall not apply if that employee, officer, or agent is exempt from licensure under O.C.G.A. 43-10A-21(a). Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-10A-21. **History.** Original Rule was f. as Rule 135-10-.04. **Amended:** Rule renumbered. F. Oct. 10, 1991; eff. Oct. 30, 1991.