



OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

Legislative Requirement

The passage of HB 2506 during the 2009 session includes a requirement that those licensed as professional counselors or marriage and family therapists on January 1, 2010 attest to diagnosis training and experience.

Section 13 of HB 2506:

- (5) (a) A person licensed under ORS 675.715 to 675.835 on the effective date in this 2009 Act may not practice professional counselor or marriage and family therapy unless the person has submitted a written attestation to the board that the person has training and experience in the diagnosis of mental disorders.
- (b) The board shall randomly audit attestations submitted under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

There is no grace period to attest, although the Board has until 2012 to conduct the audits of the attestations.

If you are not practicing, you will not need to attest unless you decide to return to practice. Please make sure you have notified the Board that you are not practicing. You will need to attest to the training and experience before returning to practice.

Attestation

All LPCs and LMFTs licensed on January 1, 2010 must attest to diagnosis training and experience. The form to attest is attached to this document. Please check the appropriate boxes, sign and return the form to the Board office by December 15, 2009. You do not need to submit other information with the completed form.

TO MEET THE DIAGNOSIS TRAINING REQUIREMENT, you would need:

- * 3 academic credits in diagnosis from a college or university, or
- * 12 clock hours of continuing education in diagnosis, or
- * Taught a diagnosis class

You can meet the requirement by having training in any diagnostic category. Examples of acceptable coursework include psychopathology, diagnosis of ADHD or PTSD; suicide prevention (with assessment, diagnosis). If your training included elements of diagnosis then it would meet the requirements.

Academic coursework, CEUs, and/or teaching will meet the training requirement. Classes, workshops, conferences, etc. may have been taken before or after licensure.

You do not have to have 3 credits plus 12 CEUs plus teaching; you need to have one or the other or some combination of 3 three to meet the training requirement.

TO MEET THE EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT, you need 3 years of clinical experience that included diagnosing mental health disorders. The experience may have occurred as part of your graduate program internship, while an intern registered with the Board, and/or as part of your current or former jobs. There is no requirement that your experience was supervised.

IF YOU CHECK 'NO' ON YOUR ATTESTATION FORM, the Board will suspend your license on January 1, 2010 until you have met the diagnosis training and experience requirements.

Written legal advice from the Oregon Department of Justice on September 22, 2009 states, in part:

“As the regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of these laws, the Board will need to investigate and take the appropriate disciplinary action against all licensees who fail to satisfy this requirement by January 1, 2010. Such discipline includes, at a minimum, the suspension of their licenses.”

Audit

The Board will conduct a random audit of the attestation forms as part of the 2010 CEU audit process. Ten percent of licensees will be chosen randomly for the audit.

If you are chosen for audit, we will ask you for documentation of your training and experience. We will provide more information about documentation requirements as we get closer to the deadline.

Acceptable examples of documentation of diagnosis training include a copy of a transcript, a copy of a certificate showing CEU completion, workshop description showing you as the instructor.

An acceptable example of your diagnosis experience may be a brief written description of your job responsibilities and how they included diagnosis.

If you are audited and cannot provide acceptable documentation, your license will be suspended until you meet the requirements and can provide the documentation.