

**OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS & THERAPISTS**

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

In 2009, the Oregon legislature passed a law that established new definitions of marriage and family therapy and professional counseling and specified who does and does not need a license to practice. The law increases consumer safety but also provides exemptions from license requirements.

The requirement for licensure depends on (1) employer, (2) education, and (3) the type of services one provides.

Those allowed to practice professional counseling or marriage and family therapy include:

- A licensed professional counselor;
- A licensed marriage and family therapist;
- An intern registered with the Board; and
- A student pursuing a graduate degree in counseling or marriage and family therapy.

WHO NEEDS A LICENSE

- 1) If one practices professional counseling or marriage and family therapy consistent with definitions in the law;
- 2) If one has a graduate degree in a mental health field that meets the licensure requirements; **and**
- 3) Do not fit in one or more of the categories listed under “Who Does Not Need a License”.

WHO DOES NOT NEED A LICENSE

Counselors and therapists **do not need a license** in Oregon if they fit in **any** of the following categories.

- 1) Work for
 - a) A public agency, e.g., county mental health, state Department of Human Services; or
 - b) A health or mental health organization certified by a public agency, e.g., hospital;
- 2) Are licensed in Oregon or certified by another Oregon agency, e.g., social workers, psychologists, if the person’s activities are performed within the scope of his or her employment;
- 3) Are authorized to provide addiction treatment services under rules of the Oregon Department of Human Services
- 4) Are a recognized member of the clergy if acting in a ministerial capacity;
- 5) Do not meet the educational requirements for licensure; or
- 6) Do not practice marriage and family therapy or professional counseling consistent with the definitions in the law.

A person **may not** provide counseling or therapy services of a psychotherapeutic nature if his or her license was revoked by, or surrendered to, the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists because the person engaged in sexual activity with a client.