



CRCC Connections News Brief

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October 19, 2009
For Immediate Release
Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification
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Advocacy Alert: California Says YES to Licensure as Governor Signs Counselor Bill

An Important and Historic Victory - California Is the 50th State to License Professional Counselors

Listserve were a buzz last week with the news that after seven years and three bills, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed California Senate Bill 788, establishing licensure of professional clinical counselors in the state. With the enactment of the new law in California, counselor licensure is now available in all U.S. jurisdictions.

Being in full support of California's licensure process and having written many letters and supported testimony before various House and Senate Committees, CRCC congratulates the California Coalition for Counselor Licensure (CCCL) for its success in leading the licensure effort in California.

"The signing of California's licensure bill is truly a historic event. Thirty years ago, not a single U.S. state had counselor licensure and now it exists in every state plus the District of Columbia. This national recognition is critical both in establishing necessary standards and consumer protections and in the recognition and continued growth of the counseling profession." states Patricia Nunez, M.A., CRC, CDMS, CCM, Immediate Past Chair of CRCC and a CCCL Board Member.

While the new California law becomes effective on January 1, 2010, there will be a typical rule-making period followed by a grand parenting period for applications during which time there will be recognition of certain provisions that will then be discontinued over the course of time. Recognition of supervised work experience by a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and recognition of the CRC Examination (CRCE) are two provisions that will be available during the grand parenting period. CRCC fully endorses all CRCs practicing in California to pursue licensure under these grand parented statutes.

Recognizing, however, that not every CRC may be fully qualified under the new licensure requirements, CRCC also strongly recommends that all interested CRCs check the CCCL website under Licensure Requirements, or www.caccl.org/requirements.html, for specific qualifications and timing so that they can take action to become qualified during the grand parenting period. As with the CRC certification, which sets rehabilitation counselors apart from other counselors as individuals who are qualified to provide services to individuals with disabilities, licensure establishes a standard in the profession that may be required in certain areas of practice and will provide rehabilitation counselors with greater employment opportunities over the course of their career.

"CRCC extends its appreciation to Patricia Nunez for her dedicated efforts in advocating for recognition of CRCs and the CRCE during many refinements to the bill." states Cindy Chapman, CRCC Executive Director.

Cindy A. Chapman, Executive Director
Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification