
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 990 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY WAUGH, RAFFERTY AND STOUT, JUNE 26, 2009

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JUNE
26, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), entitled "An
2 act licensing and regulating the practice of social work;
3 providing penalties; and making an appropriation," further
4 providing for qualifications for license.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 7(d), (e) and (f) of the act of July 9,
8 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and
9 Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, amended
10 December 21, 1998 (P.L.1017, No.136) and July 9, 2008 (P.L.929,
11 No.68), are amended to read:

12 Section 7. Qualifications for license.

13 * * *

14 (d) Clinical social work license.--An applicant shall be
15 qualified for a license to hold oneself out as a licensed
16 clinical social worker if the applicant submits proof
17 satisfactory to the board that all of the following apply:

18 (1) The applicant is of good moral character.

19 (2) The applicant has successfully met both of the

1 following requirements:

2 (i) Holds a master's degree in social work or social
3 welfare or a doctoral degree in social work from an
4 accredited school of social work as recognized by the
5 board.

6 (ii) Is licensed under this act as a social worker.

7 (3) The applicant has completed at least [three years
8 or] 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience acceptable
9 to the board as determined by regulation after completion of
10 the master's degree in social work.

11 (4) The applicant has passed a clinical social work
12 examination adopted by the board.

13 (5) The applicant has submitted an application
14 accompanied by the application fee.

15 (6) The applicant has not been convicted of a felony
16 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
17 or of an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction
18 which, if committed in this Commonwealth, would be a felony
19 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
20 unless:

21 (i) at least ten years have elapsed from the date of
22 conviction;

23 (ii) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrated to
24 the board that the applicant has made significant
25 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction
26 such that licensure of the applicant should not be
27 expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the
28 health and safety of clients or the public or a
29 substantial risk of further criminal violations; and

30 (iii) the applicant otherwise satisfies the

1 qualifications contained in or authorized by this act.

2 As used in this paragraph, the term "convicted" includes a
3 judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere.

4 (e) Marriage and family therapist license.--An applicant
5 shall be qualified to hold oneself out as a licensed marriage
6 and family therapist if the applicant submits proof satisfactory
7 to the board that all of the following apply:

8 (1) The applicant is of good moral character.

9 (2) The applicant has successfully met one of the
10 following educational requirements:

11 (i) [Within five years after the board has
12 promulgated final regulations,] On or before June 30,
13 2008, has successfully completed a planned program of 60
14 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate coursework
15 which is closely related to marriage and family therapy,
16 including a master's degree in marriage and family
17 therapy from an accredited educational institution or a
18 master's degree in a field determined by the board by
19 regulation to be closely related to the practice of
20 marriage and family therapy from an accredited
21 educational institution, with graduate level coursework
22 in marriage and family therapy acceptable to the board
23 from an accredited educational institution or from a
24 program recognized by a national accrediting agency.

25 (ii) Has successfully completed a planned program of
26 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate
27 coursework which is closely related to marriage and
28 family therapy, including a 48-semester-hour or 72-
29 quarter-hour master's degree in marriage and family
30 therapy from an accredited educational institution or a

1 48-semester-hour or 72-quarter-hour master's degree in a
2 field determined by the board by regulation to be closely
3 related to the practice of marriage and family therapy
4 from an accredited educational institution, with graduate
5 level coursework in marriage and family therapy
6 acceptable to the board from an accredited educational
7 institution or from a program recognized by a national
8 accrediting agency.

9 (iii) holds a doctoral degree in marriage and family
10 therapy from an accredited educational institution or
11 holds a doctoral degree in a field determined by the
12 board by regulation to be closely related to the practice
13 of marriage and family therapy from an accredited
14 educational institution with graduate level coursework in
15 marriage and family therapy acceptable to the board from
16 an accredited educational institution or from a program
17 recognized by a national accrediting agency.

18 (3) The applicant has complied with the experience
19 requirement as follows:

20 (i) An individual meeting the educational
21 requirements of paragraph (2)(i) or (ii) must have
22 completed at least [three years or] 3,600 hours of
23 supervised clinical experience, acceptable to the board
24 as determined by regulation, obtained after the
25 completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of
26 graduate coursework.

27 (ii) An individual meeting the educational
28 requirements of paragraph (2)(iii) must have completed at
29 least [two years or] 2,400 hours of supervised clinical
30 experience, acceptable to the board as determined by

1 regulation, [one year or] 1,200 hours of which was
2 obtained subsequent to the granting of the doctoral
3 degree.

4 (4) The applicant has passed an examination adopted by
5 the board.

6 (5) The application has been accompanied by the
7 application fee.

8 (6) The applicant has not been convicted of a felony
9 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
10 or of an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction which
11 if committed in this Commonwealth would be a felony under the
12 Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act unless:

13 (i) at least ten years have elapsed from the date of
14 conviction;

15 (ii) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to
16 the board that the applicant has made significant
17 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction
18 such that licensure of the applicant should not be
19 expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the
20 health and safety of clients or the public or a
21 substantial risk of further criminal violation; and

22 (iii) the applicant otherwise satisfies the
23 qualifications contained in or authorized by this act.

24 As used in this paragraph, the term "convicted" includes a
25 judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere.

26 (f) Professional counselors license.--An applicant is
27 qualified for a license to hold oneself out as a licensed
28 professional counselor if the applicant submits proof
29 satisfactory to the board that all of the following apply:

30 (1) The applicant is of good moral character.

1 (2) The applicant has successfully met one of the
2 following educational requirements:

3 (i) [Within five years after the board has
4 promulgated final regulations,] On or before June 30,
5 2008, has successfully completed a planned program of 60
6 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate coursework
7 in counseling or a field determined by the board by
8 regulation to be closely related to the practice of
9 professional counseling, including a master's degree in
10 counseling or a field determined by the board by
11 regulation to be closely related to the practice of
12 professional counseling, from an accredited educational
13 institution.

14 (ii) Has successfully completed a planned program of
15 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate
16 coursework in counseling or a field determined by the
17 board by regulation to be closely related to the practice
18 of professional counseling, including a 48-semester-hour
19 or 72-quarter-hour master's degree in counseling or a
20 field determined by the board by regulation to be closely
21 related to the practice of professional counseling, from
22 an accredited educational institution.

23 (iii) Holds a doctoral degree in counseling from an
24 accredited educational institution or holds a doctoral
25 degree in a field determined by the board by regulation
26 to be closely related to the practice of professional
27 counseling from an accredited educational institution.

28 (3) The applicant has complied with the experience
29 requirements as follows:

30 (i) An individual meeting the educational

1 requirements of paragraph (2) (i) or (ii) must have
2 completed at least [three years or] 3,600 hours of
3 supervised clinical experience, acceptable to the board
4 as determined by regulation, obtained after the
5 completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of
6 graduate coursework.

7 (ii) An individual meeting the educational
8 requirements of paragraph (2) (iii) must have completed at
9 least [two years or] 2,400 hours of supervised clinical
10 experience, acceptable to the board as determined by
11 regulation, [one year or] 1,200 hours of which was
12 obtained subsequent to the granting of the doctoral
13 degree.

14 (4) The applicant has passed an examination adopted by
15 the board.

16 (5) The application has been accompanied by the
17 application fee.

18 (6) The applicant has not been convicted of a felony
19 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
20 or of an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction which
21 if committed in this Commonwealth would be a felony under the
22 Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act unless:

23 (i) at least ten years have elapsed from the date of
24 conviction;

25 (ii) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to
26 the board that the applicant has made significant
27 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction
28 such that licensure of the applicant should not be
29 expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the
30 health and safety of clients or the public or a

1 substantial risk of further criminal violations; and
2 (iii) the applicant otherwise satisfies the
3 qualifications contained in or authorized by this act.
4 As used in this paragraph, the term "convicted" includes a
5 judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere.
6 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.