

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL**No. 816** Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, DENLINGER, BOYD, D. COSTA, GINGRICH,
MILLER, MOUL, REICHLEY, ROCK AND MURT, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 11, 2011

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.

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

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

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

8 (3) The applicant has completed at least [three years
9 or] 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience OR HOLDS AN ←
10 ACADEMY OF CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS CERTIFICATE ISSUED PRIOR
11 TO JANUARY 1, 2001, BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL
12 WORKERS OR OTHERWISE MEETS THE SUPERVISION EXPECTATION IN A
13 FASHION acceptable to the board as determined by regulation
14 after completion of the master's degree in social work.

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

17 (5) The applicant has submitted an application
18 accompanied by the application fee.

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

25 (i) at least ten years have elapsed from the date of
26 conviction;

27 (ii) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrated to
28 the board that the applicant has made significant
29 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction
30 such that licensure of the applicant should not be

1 expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the
2 health and safety of clients or the public or a
3 substantial risk of further criminal violations; and
4 (iii) the applicant otherwise satisfies the
5 qualifications contained in or authorized by this act.

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

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

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

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

15 (i) [Within five years after the board has
16 promulgated final regulations, ~~On or before June 30,~~ ←
17 ~~2009,~~ has] HAS successfully completed a planned program ←
18 of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate
19 coursework which is closely related to marriage and
20 family therapy, including a master's degree GRANTED ON OR ←
21 BEFORE JUNE 30, 2009, in marriage and family therapy from
22 an accredited educational institution or a master's
23 degree GRANTED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2009, in a field ←
24 determined by the board by regulation to be closely
25 related to the practice of marriage and family therapy
26 from an accredited educational institution, with graduate
27 level coursework in marriage and family therapy
28 acceptable to the board from an accredited educational
29 institution or from a program recognized by a national
30 accrediting agency.

1 (ii) Has successfully completed a planned program of
2 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate
3 coursework which is closely related to marriage and
4 family therapy, including a 48-semester-hour or 72-
5 quarter-hour master's degree in marriage and family
6 therapy from an accredited educational institution or a
7 48-semester-hour or 72-quarter-hour master's degree in a
8 field determined by the board by regulation to be closely
9 related to the practice of marriage and family therapy
10 from an accredited educational institution, with graduate
11 level coursework in marriage and family therapy
12 acceptable to the board from an accredited educational
13 institution or from a program recognized by a national
14 accrediting agency.

15 (iii) holds a doctoral degree in marriage and family
16 therapy from an accredited educational institution or
17 holds a doctoral degree in a field determined by the
18 board by regulation to be closely related to the practice
19 of marriage and family therapy from an accredited
20 educational institution with graduate level coursework in
21 marriage and family therapy acceptable to the board from
22 an accredited educational institution or from a program
23 recognized by a national accrediting agency.

24 (3) The applicant has complied with the experience
25 requirement as follows:

26 (i) An individual meeting the educational
27 requirements of paragraph (2) (i) or (ii) must have
28 completed at least [three years or] ~~3,600~~ 3,600] 3,000 ←
29 hours of supervised clinical experience, acceptable to
30 the board as determined by regulation, obtained after the

1 completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of
2 graduate coursework.

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

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

12 (5) The application has been accompanied by the
13 application fee.

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

19 (i) at least ten years have elapsed from the date of
20 conviction;

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

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

30 As used in this paragraph, the term "convicted" includes a

1 judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere.

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

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

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

9 (i) [Within five years after the board has
10 promulgated final regulations, ~~] On or before June 30,~~ ←
11 ~~2009,~~ has] HAS successfully completed a planned program ←
12 of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate
13 coursework in counseling or a field determined by the
14 board by regulation to be closely related to the practice
15 of professional counseling, including a master's degree
16 GRANTED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2009, in counseling or a ←
17 field determined by the board by regulation to be closely
18 related to the practice of professional counseling, from
19 an accredited educational institution.

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

29 (iii) Holds a doctoral degree in counseling from an
30 accredited educational institution or holds a doctoral

1 degree in a field determined by the board by regulation
2 to be closely related to the practice of professional
3 counseling from an accredited educational institution.

4 (3) The applicant has complied with the experience
5 requirements as follows:

6 (i) An individual meeting the educational
7 requirements of paragraph (2)(i) or (ii) must have
8 completed at least [three years or] ~~3,600~~ 3,600] 3,000 ←
9 hours of supervised clinical experience, acceptable to
10 the board as determined by regulation, obtained after the
11 completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of
12 graduate coursework.

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

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

22 (5) The application has been accompanied by the
23 application fee.

24 (6) The applicant has not been convicted of a felony
25 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
26 or of an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction which
27 if committed in this Commonwealth would be a felony under the
28 Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act unless:

29 (i) at least ten years have elapsed from the date of
30 conviction;

1 (ii) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to
2 the board that the applicant has made significant
3 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction
4 such that licensure of the applicant should not be
5 expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the
6 health and safety of clients or the public or a
7 substantial risk of further criminal violations; and

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

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

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.