

ADP Proposal For Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor Certification and Licensing

Major Provisions

ADP's Proposal will:

- Create a new level of certification; Certified Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Counselor-Clinical Supervisor (CAODC-CS).
- Create a license; Licensed AOD Counselor (LAODC).
- Authorize the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) to set requirements for four types of AOD counselors: Registered AOD Counselor, Certified AOD Counselor, Certified AOD Counselor-Clinical Supervisor and Licensed AOD Counselor.
- Establish a single code of conduct for all AOD counselors.
- Grandparent AOD counselors currently certified by one of the nine current certifying organizations: Authorize ADP to issue licenses or certificates to each AOD counselor who is certified in the current system on or before December 31, 2012, provided the individual submits a timely application, pays the applicable fees, and passes a criminal background check. No test is required.
- Require ADP to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations to ADP on issues of public policy such as: treatment, emerging trends in recovery, counselor education ethics and other issues that the Director deems appropriate.
- Require ADP to contract for all of the following functions: verification of educational requirements and continuing education hours; compiling transcripts; verification of hours and place of clinical supervision and work experience; assurance that the appropriate test was taken and the score is verified; administration of the required test(s); fee collection; and obtaining and reviewing State and federal-level criminal offender record information search.
- Authorize ADP to audit and conduct oversight of any entity contracting to perform any of the specified functions.
- Require ADP to investigate all complaints made against any of entities contracted with the department to perform the specified functions.
- Require ADP to issue certificates, licenses, and registrations beginning January 1, 2013 and authorizes ADP to collect related fees, as specified.

- Require applicants to consent to a state and federal level criminal offender record information search as part of a criminal history background check. Authorizes ADP to deny, revoke, suspend, or impose conditions upon a license, certification, or registration based upon the criminal history background check.
- Require specific introductory education and training to be completed prior to registration. All hours required to obtain registration may be credited toward the same requirements for certification and licensure.
- Require counselors to complete thirty (30) hours of education in law and ethics, and forty-eight (48) hours of education in the screening for co-occurring disorders and referral processes, training in the use of client placement criteria, and training in data collection systems.
- Require ADP to approve one or more psychometrically validated tests for each level of certification or licensure.
- Allow a counselor certified as a CAODC to supervise the work experience of a registrant seeking certification as a CAODC as long as the supervisor has 10,000 hours of work experience certified as a CAODC working in a setting that lawfully and regularly provides alcohol and other drug counseling; is in good standing with no substantiated or pending complaints; and has completed no less than 40 hours in course work using "Competencies for Substance Abuse Treatment Clinical Supervisors."
- Specify that clinical supervision must be provided by an individual certified as a CAODC-CS, licensed as a LAODC, or otherwise licensed.
- Authorize ADP to deny, revoke, suspend, or impose conditions upon a license, certification, or registration based upon the criminal history background check, as specified.
- Authorize ADP to impose sanctions for counselor misconduct and establish an appeals process for those sanctions.
- Authorize ADP to conduct periodic review, evaluation of the tests and the administration of the tests.
- Authorize ADP to maintain a database to track counselors throughout the system.
- Authorize an individual licensed as a LAODC to practice outside of a program licensed or certified by ADP.
- Authorize ADP to recognize education provided by any of the following: any school, college or university accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or approved by the Bureau for the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education; an education provider accredited in the alcohol and other drug counseling field by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies or otherwise recognized by the department; and other providers as approved by the department.
- Specify the degrees ADP will recognize for each level of certification and licensure.

- Specify required hours of education and required hours of clinical supervision for each level of certification and licensure.
- Specify the scope of practice for AOD counseling.
- Require all registered, certified or licensed AOD counselors to submit a referral at any point when there has been any identification of problems out of the scope of practice, including but not limited to medical or psychiatric.
- Specify that nothing in the law will constrict or limit any other license.
- Provide that it is not unlawful for a person to engage in the practice of AOD counseling as long as the person holds a valid, unexpired, unrevoked certification or registration in accordance with the regulations of the department in effect on December 31, 2012.