

# LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2009

Following are amendments and additions to the information contained in our 2008 publication, *Licensure Requirements for Professional Counselors: A State-by-State Report*.

**Iowa** increased the number of hours of supervised experience required from 1,000 hours to 2,000 hours, and increased the required minimum number of graduate semester hours from 45 to 60. The new experience and semester hour requirements apply to applicants who enter a program of study on or after July 1, 2008.

**Maine** is no longer issuing new licenses for the Registered Counselor credential. Current Registered Counselors in Maine may continue to renew. Maine also increased the required minimum number of semester hours for recognized graduate programs in counseling from 48 to 60, for individuals applying for licensure as a Clinical Professional Counselor after January 1, 2009.

**Maryland** is no longer issuing initial licenses for the Certified Professional Counselor credential. Those who are current Certified Professional Counselors may continue to renew their credential.

**Montana** no longer requires passage of a jurisprudence exam.

**Tennessee** is increasing the number of hours of supervised experience required for its Licensed Professional Counselor-Mental Health Service Provider credential from 1,000 hours to 3,000 hours, effective July 1, 2009.

**Washington** has created three new counseling credentials that go into effect on July 1, 2009, in addition to the Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) credential. Washington will no longer issue new licenses for Registered Counselors beginning July 2, 2009. Current Registered Counselors in Washington need to transition over to one of the following new credentials by July 1, 2010, when the Registered Counselor credential will be abolished.

- **Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate**: This license is intended for those pursuing an LMHC license. Applicants must have a graduate degree in mental health counseling or a related field, and be working toward meeting the supervised experience requirements for full licensure.
- **Certified Counselor and Certified Advisor**: Certified health professionals authorized to engage in private practice counseling.
- **Agency Affiliated Counselor**: Registered health professionals who engage in counseling and are employed by an agency or facility that operates under state regulations. Applicants must provide satisfactory documentation of employment or offer of employment by an approved counseling agency.