What is the Counseling Compact?
The Counseling Compact is an agreement among states to legislatively recognize other states’ counseling licenses. Counselors may participate in the Compact if they:

- are licensed at the highest level.
- can practice independently.
- can assess, diagnose and treat behavioral health conditions.
- have an unencumbered home license. A home license is defined as a license from the state where the counselor legally resides.

Learn more: counseling.org/counseling-compact

How does the Compact benefit Counselors and Clients?

For Counselors. The Counseling Compact allows counselors to:

- practice across state lines using a privilege to practice model.
- use telehealth in all compact states.
- practice as a military spouse on a home-state license in all compact states for the duration of active or reserve service.
- access an expedited pathway to licensure when the counselor moves to another compact state.

For Clients. The Compact provides clients, particularly those in underserved areas, with:

- continuity of care from a trusted counselor, no matter where the client or the counselor reside.
- expanded access to counselors and availability of services.
- additional protections for the public by establishing uniform standards and shared discipline data.

What states are part of the Compact?
As of October 2022, 17 states joined the compact and 12 more joined during the 2023 session: Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming. The bill passed in Illinois and is currently awaiting the Governor’s signature, which will be the 30th state. New Jersey and the District of Columbia continue to move the legislation forward as they are still in session. Eight other states introduced legislation this year that did not pass but will be reintroduced during the 2024 legislative session.

When can counselors apply for extended privileges?
The Commission consists of one representative from the licensing board of each Compact state. The Commission is in the process of procuring necessary data and ensuring that the licensure data for all states is uploaded before they can grant privileges, which they hope to do by the mid-2024.

Learn more: counseling.org/counseling-compact