

1                   **MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR LICENSING AMENDMENTS**

2   2020 GENERAL SESSION

3   STATE OF UTAH

4                                   **Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler**

5                                   House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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7   **LONG TITLE**

8   **General Description:**

9           This bill amends provisions relating to the licensure of a clinical mental health  
10 counselor.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12           This bill:

- 13           ▶       permits an individual seeking licensure as a clinical mental health counselor to
- 14 satisfy certain licensure requirements by submitting evidence of board certification
- 15 as a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor; and
- 16           ▶       makes technical changes.

17 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

18           None

19 **Other Special Clauses:**

20           None

21 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

22 AMENDS:

23           **58-60-405**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 77

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25 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

26           Section 1. Section **58-60-405** is amended to read:

27           **58-60-405. Qualifications for licensure.**



28 (1) An applicant for licensure as a clinical mental health counselor shall:  
29 (a) submit an application on a form provided by the division;  
30 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;  
31 (c) be of good moral character;  
32 (d) produce certified transcripts from an accredited institution of higher education  
33 recognized by the division in collaboration with the board verifying satisfactory completion of:  
34 (i) an education and degree in an education program in counseling with a core  
35 curriculum defined by division rule under Section 58-1-203 preparing one to competently  
36 engage in mental health therapy; and  
37 (ii) an earned doctoral or master's degree resulting from that education program;  
38 (e) have completed a minimum of 4,000 hours of clinical mental health counselor  
39 training as defined by division rule under Section 58-1-203:  
40 (i) in not less than two years;  
41 (ii) under the supervision of a clinical mental health counselor, psychiatrist,  
42 psychologist, clinical social worker, registered psychiatric mental health nurse specialist, or  
43 marriage and family therapist supervisor approved by the division in collaboration with the  
44 board;  
45 (iii) obtained after completion of the education requirement in Subsection (1)(d); and  
46 (iv) including a minimum of two hours of training in suicide prevention via a course  
47 that the division designates as approved;  
48 (f) document successful completion of not less than 1,000 hours of supervised training  
49 in mental health therapy obtained after completion of the education requirement in Subsection  
50 (1)(d), which training may be included as part of the 4,000 hours of training in Subsection  
51 (1)(e), and of which documented evidence demonstrates not less than 100 of the hours were  
52 obtained under the direct supervision of a mental health therapist, as defined by rule; and  
53 (g) pass the examination requirement established by division rule under Section  
54 58-1-203.

55 (2) (a) An applicant for licensure as an associate clinical mental health counselor shall  
56 comply with the provisions of Subsections (1)(a), (b), (c), and (d).  
57 (b) Except as provided under Subsection (2)(c), an individual's licensure as an  
58 associate clinical mental health counselor is limited to the period of time necessary to complete

59 clinical training as described in Subsections (1)(e) and (f) and extends not more than one year  
60 from the date the minimum requirement for training is completed.

61 (c) The time period under Subsection (2)(b) may be extended to a maximum of two  
62 years past the date the minimum supervised clinical training requirement has been completed,  
63 if the applicant presents satisfactory evidence to the division and the appropriate board that the  
64 individual is:

65 (i) making reasonable progress toward passing of the qualifying examination for that  
66 profession; or

67 (ii) otherwise on a course reasonably expected to lead to licensure.

68 (3) Board certification as a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor from the  
69 National Board of Certified Counselors satisfies the education requirement described in  
70 Subsection (1)(d) if the applicant submits documentation from the National Board of Certified  
71 Counselors certifying that the applicant's board certification is valid and in good standing.