

CCA Seeks Member Feedback re: Counseling Compact



Connecticut
Counseling Association

A Branch of the American Counseling Association

Counseling Compact Considered in CT

The Connecticut Counseling Association is seeking member feedback as to whether or not CCA advocate for and support Connecticut to join the Counseling Compact.

CCA will be meeting with leadership on Monday, December 19th to discuss member feedback and possibly determine CCA's next steps in relation to the Compact.

Time is of the essence as the Legislative Session is due to begin, and in the event that CCA determines that there is adequate member interest in the Compact, then there is a great deal of work to be done and meetings to be had.

What is the Counseling Compact?

As of May 1, 2022, the Counseling Compact, an established agreement among select states, has now been enacted in 17 states and the legislation is pending in 2 others. This means that licensed professional counselors (LPCs) in a home state that is a member of the Compact may apply to have a “privilege to practice” in other Compact states. This is not to be confused with reciprocity or full licensure in other states.

The Connecticut Counseling Association is considering voicing support for Connecticut to join the Compact and we want your feedback!

Development of a Compact Commission

This month, the Counseling Compact Commission began its work.

At the first meeting, state appointees will begin its work to establish a governing structure to oversee compact implementation. After this process is completed, which may take approximately 12-18 months, it is anticipated that Compact states will be able to issue Compact privileges.

The Compact is in effect only in states that have enacted the Compact.

Compact State Requirements

For counselors in states that are part of the Compact, counselors use the counseling license granted by their home state to apply for the privilege to practice in other member states.

Counselors must have an unencumbered license, have taken a national exam, have completed a supervised professional experience, and have earned a 60 semester-hour master's degree.

If a counselor moves to a new home state, the counselor must pursue home state licensure in that new state. The home state licensure dictates if the counselor may continue to participate in the Compact.

Benefits of Joining the Compact

1 | Continuity of Care

Connecticut counselors will be able to continue treatment of clients when the client moves or travels to Compact states provided that the CT Counselor has applied to, paid fees, and is awarded privilege to practice in said state.

2 | Greater Access to Services

For clients in states with inadequate access to mental health counseling services, the Compact state providers will now be available to these individuals. Therefore, greater access to services for clients.

3 | National Professional Identity

A national compact agreement among states demonstrates a strong professional identity and agreement and trust of each participating state's licensure requirements and oversight.

A Top Concern We Have Heard from Members

1 | Professional Identity re: State-to-State Licensure Requirements

The top reservation of joining the Compact relates to the differing licensure requirements among states. While there are some minimum requirements of state licensure to allow a state to join the Compact, some would argue that the minimum requirements are not sufficient to ensure a high level of professional competence nationwide.

CCA has demonstrated through legislative advocacy that professional identity is a top priority and will continue to be such. Had CCA not strengthened licensing requirements in recent years, Connecticut would not be in a position to join the Compact. There are states that could join the Compact who do not implement the same requisites as CT when issuing their licenses. However, an LPC in a Compact state has been deemed to be a qualified professional counselor in their state. If Connecticut joins the Compact, our State will have input and oversight on the practicing individual.

Common Questions

→ **If I received my LPC under grandfathering provisions, can I still participate as a CT LPC if CT joins the Compact?**

Yes - so long as you have an LPC in CT as your home state, regardless of grandfathering provisions permitted to you at the time of initial licensure.

→ **What if I have multiple licenses in a few states?**

The licensure state in which you reside dictates your ability to participate in the Compact. This does not prevent you from continuing to hold multiple single-state licenses.

Common Questions

→ **Can I participate in the Compact as an LPCA?**

No, you must be fully licensed (have your LPC).

→ **How much will it cost to get a privilege to practice in another state through the Compact?**

Each state will set their cost and this has not been established yet. A potential benefit to joining the Compact would be that our state would have a representative on the Compact Commission charged with developing the rules and procedure connected to Compact Legislation.

Common Questions

→ **How can I get involved in this and other legislative issues?**

First, please fill out the survey so that we know if you support Connecticut joining the Counseling Compact.

Next, please join us at our PPLC meetings to help us plan how to proceed. Next meeting is on Tuesday, 12/20 at 1pm via Zoom. To get the link, join PPLC by emailing Karla Troesser, Executive Director:

cca_exec_dir@msn.com

Resources and Survey Link

Counseling Compact Website -

www.counselingcompact.org

Compact Legislation -

https://counselingcompact.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Final_Counseling_Compact_3.1.22.pdf

Read the FAQs -

<https://counselingcompact.org/faq/>

Sign up for updates -

<https://counselingcompact.org/contact-us/>

[We want to hear from you!](#)

Please complete the 1 minute survey below:

<https://forms.gle/NiBuryRKQYFxPWvi9>