



SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO JOIN THE COUNSELING COMPACT

Background

Licensed Professional Counselors have never been more in-demand and at a time when telemedicine has expanded, and people are living without attention to borders there is a need to ensure counselors can provide patients with continuity of care. Currently, to practice in Connecticut an individual must be licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor pursuant to Chapter 383c of the general statutes.

Other states have similar licensure requirements, but immediate reciprocity is not available. Connecticut counselors cannot provide continuity of care to Connecticut residents who temporarily travel or work outside the state without becoming licensed in the state to which the patient has traveled. Also, when counselors move from other states, including military spouses, they must gain licensure in Connecticut. Obtaining licensure by reciprocity can be a lengthy process and require a laborious task of ensuring each applicant has the requisite experience to meet the licensure requirements, potentially interrupting or reducing the provision of mental health services.

Compact Information

The Counseling Compact is an interstate compact, or a contract among states, allowing professional counselors licensed and residing in a compact member state to practice in other compact member states without need for multiple licenses. By 2022, the Compact was passed by the requisite 10 states that was required for implementation.

The Compact Commission is currently working to establish a governing structure to oversee compact implementation. Each member state will be included on the Commission. After this process is completed, which may take 12-18 months, states will be able to issue Compact privileges. In 2022, Delaware became the 17th State to join the Counseling Compact with that number expected to rise to 30+ states in the next few years.

Compact Benefits

- **Privilege to Practice:** Allows Professional counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements to quickly obtain a privilege to practice, which is equivalent to a license to practice counseling in another state.
- **Data Sharing and Verification Across States:** The Compact creates a shared interstate licensure data system, allowing for near-instant verification of licensure status. Through the data system, a privilege to practice can be obtained in a matter of minutes. The data system also enhances public protection by ensuring that member states share investigative and disciplinary information with one another.
- **Continuity of Care:** Provides continuity of care via telemedicine for states that have adopted the Compact. As people continue to work and live without attention to borders, there is an increasing need to be able to treat patients who travel across jurisdictions.
- **Increase Access to Counselors:** Allows people who move to Connecticut or temporarily come to Connecticut from Compact states to continue to have access to care.
- **Military Families/Spouses:** Allows military spouses and family members who are counselors from member Compact states to practice in Connecticut immediately upon moving here.

For more information on the Counseling Compact, visit <https://counselingcompact.org/>.