

**OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS & THERAPISTS**

**Board Procedural Change Information
November 20, 2009**

Birth Month And Online Renewal

In January, 2009 we began the transition from everyone renewing licenses in March to birth month renewals and the opportunity to renew and pay online. Some people thought the Board increased the license renewal fee because they had to pay more during their renewal. The annual renewal fee was \$125. Most people paid more than \$125 because their licenses were renewed from March 2009 through their birth month in 2010 – paying for more than 1 year’s worth. In 2010, everyone will go back to a 12 month renewal period.

Continuing Education

The continuing education requirement is 40 CEUs every 2 years – in even-numbered years. Your last CEU report was in 2008; your next report is due during your birth month when you renew your license in 2010. To coincide with birth month renewal, your reporting period for continuing education is April 1, 2008 (when you last reported) through your birth month in 2010.

Six clock hours of ethics training must be completed as part of the 40 CEUs due in 2010. The requirement was adopted by the Board and put in administrative rule in 2008.

Attestation To Diagnosis Training And Experience

This requirement came in House Bill 2506, passed by the Legislature during the summer of 2009. The language in the bill is:

Section 13.

(5)(a) A person licensed under ORS 675.715 to 675.835 on the effective date of this 2009 Act may not practice professional counseling or marriage and family therapy unless the person has submitted a written attestation to the board that the person has training and experience in the diagnosis of mental disorders.

(b) The board shall randomly audit attestations submitted under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

The sponsors of the bill did not intend to put anyone out of work. We are working with the Coalition and members of the Legislature to change the January 1, 2010 deadline to January 1, 2012, allowing current licensees more time to meet the diagnosis training and experience requirements. Any change in the requirement would have to be made by the passage of law. Representatives Peter Buckley and Carolyn Tomei have committed to support this change during the February 2010 legislative session. We will continue to let you know the status of this as changes occur. If you have not submitted your attestation form, please do so. If you have concerns about your ability to attest by January 1, 2010, please contact Becky Eklund at the Board office.

Criminal Background Checks/Fingerprints

Legislation authorizing the Board to conduct criminal background checks using fingerprints has been in place for several years. In 2006, the Board approved administrative rules to establish the process, but the rules were not adopted and the process was never implemented.

With increased emphasis from the Legislature and consistent with other health related licensing Boards, we will begin criminal background checks for current licensees and interns when you renew your license or registration in 2010.

The checks will be conducted every 5 years, and the cost for the State Police and the FBI to conduct the background check is \$47.25. You will need to get your fingerprints and send them to the Board with your license/registration renewal. We will provide you with instructions, fingerprint cards, and a certification form if you had a criminal background check conducted by another agency within the last year. If you can have the agency that conducted the check certify, you will not need to pay the \$47.25 for another background check. We will continue to communicate with you about this process.

2010 License Renewal

Your license renewal in 2010 (during your birth month) will require:

1. Renewal form
2. Fingerprints or certification from another agency that you had a background check within the last year
3. \$172.25 renewal fee that includes the cost of the criminal background check (\$125 plus \$47.25). If you had a criminal background check completed by another agency within the last year and you provide the certification form, you will not have to pay \$47.25.
4. Continuing education report

You will be able to renew, report CEUs, and pay online. You will need to send fingerprints or criminal background check certification form to the Board office.

Administrative Rule Changes

During the last year, the Board convened several work groups to review and recommend changes to administrative rules. Work groups consisted of Board members, LPCs, LMFTs, registered interns, supervisors of interns, and university graduate program directors and faculty. There were work groups for administrative rules on 1) interns; 2) supervision; 3) distance counseling; 4) graduate degree standards.

The official notice of proposed changes to administrative rules will be posted in the Secretary of State's *Oregon Bulletin* on December 1, 2009. You will be able to access the notice of rule changes on the internet at: <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/banners/rules.htm>

The proposed changes will be posted on the Board's website. Anyone interested may comment on the proposed changes by submitting written comments to the Board by December 28, 2009.