



Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health



Health Regulation and Licensing Administration

IMPORTANT FACTS TO KNOW
EFFECTIVE July 5, 2016
FROM THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

This Notice Applies Only To Those Licensed Graduate Professional Counselors and Licensed Professional Counselors Who Practice in the District of Columbia

A Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor (GPC) is prohibited from engaging in or maintaining an independent practice.¹ Only a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) may engage in independent practice.

A GPC may only be supervised by a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), or a Licensed Psychologist (LPsy).

A GPC, whose supervision takes place in the District of Columbia, must hold a District of Columbia license before the supervision begins. Practicing without a license is a violation of District of Columbia law and may result in disciplinary action.

Any LPC, LICSW, or LPsy, who supervises an unlicensed GPC is in violation of District of Columbia law and is subject to disciplinary action by the respective boards.

A GPC no longer needs to submit a supervised practice form to the Board of Professional Counseling prior to receiving supervision.

A GPC applicant who completed a degree at an institution not accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) must submit documentation that demonstrates the program that the degree is from is substantially equivalent to CACREP.

¹ **Definition of Independent Practice** - Rendering counseling services on his or her own responsibility, free of the administrative and professional control of an employer or clinical supervisor; Directly collecting fees from a client, or his or her representative, as the payor, for services rendered where the counselor is the payee; or Maintaining an office or office space at his or her own expense with advertising to the public that conveys information or the idea that the counselor is not affiliated with a licensed health professional who provides supervision.