



D.C. Board of Professional Counseling

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Verification of Licensure	2
Move/Change Names	3
Things You Need to Know to Renew	3
Serve on the Board	3
Licensure Renewal Process	4
Board Meetings	4
Stay in Touch	4
Criminal Background Check (CBC) Process	5
Renewal/CEs	6
New Senior Health Licensing Specialist	6
Public vs. Non-Public Discipline	6
Are You Ready for the CE Audit?	7
Paid Inactive Status	7
CE Audit Response	8
Meet Your Board Members	9
Board Orders	10
Filing a Complaint	10
Board Members, Board Staff, and Contact Information	11

ADDRESS

Changing your mailing address? Send your name, mailing address, and license number to:

Board of Professional Counseling
Processing Department
Address/Name Change
899 North Capitol St NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002



Government of the District of Columbia
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor



RENEWAL ISSUE

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from the Board of Professional Counseling! Your Counseling Board is comprised of five professional members (Mirna Amaya, Dr. Art Blecher, Laurie Ferreri, Dr. Victoria Sardi, and Terri Spencer) and four staff members (Van Brathwaite, Board Attorney; Rebecca Odrick, Board Investigator; Bonnie Rampersaud, Board Executive Director; and Nakia Snider, Health Licensing Specialist). The Board is able to effectively create legislation, approve new licensure applicants, and regulate and sanction counseling professionals who violate our ethical and legal standards of practice due to the dedication, collaboration, and diligence of all its members.



Victoria A. Sardi, PhD, LPC

To ensure that the Board is up to date on current national and local professional trends, we work closely with other professional counseling entities such as the American Counseling Association (ACA), the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB), the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the DC Department of Mental Health, the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC), and the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).

The Board is committed to upholding professional counselors in the District of Columbia to the highest standards possible, thereby ensuring our professional identity. In line with this vital goal, we would like to apprise you of two new legislative initiatives. The first initiative was enacted in July of 2007. During that time we repealed the Registration of Addiction Counselor (RAC) credential. Registration has been replaced with either the Certification of Addiction Counselor I (CACI) or Certification of Addiction Counselor II (CACII) credential. Certifying addiction counselors holds professionals to a higher standard of education, training, and practice. The second initiative involves the creation of a Graduate Licensed Professional Counselor (LGPC) credential. The LGPC is designed to license a professional who graduated from a 48-credit graduate semester hour Master's program in Counseling or a related field, passed the National Counselor Exam, and is accruing 3500 post-Master's supervised clinical hours to obtain an LPC. A licensee with an LGPC will be unable to practice independently, but the credential will help assure that new professionals meet a standard of practice and have a professional identity which will enhance marketability in the workforce.

Upcoming Board Meetings

OCTOBER 12, 2012
NOVEMBER 9, 2012

SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

at 899 North Capitol St NE
Second Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Open Session is at 9:30 a.m.

Verification of Licensure

Licensing authorities and some health facilities often require a letter of verification of the licenses you currently hold or have held in the past. These letters of verification are sometimes called "letters of good standing," even though your DC license may have expired.

If the jurisdiction or institution to which you wish the letter sent gave you a form, simply forward the form, with a check or money order payable to "DC Treasurer" in the amount of thirty-four dollars (\$34.00) to:

DC Board of
Professional Counseling
899 North Capitol St NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

On the form, be sure to include your name as it appears on your license and the address where the form is to be sent. If the jurisdiction or institution to which you wish the letter sent did not give you a form, send the payment referenced above and a short note requesting a letter of verification. The note should include your name and the name and address of where you want the letter of verification sent.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR (continued from page 1)

This Fall you will receive a notice by mail indicating that it is time for you to renew your professional counselor license. Your renewal is due by December 31, 2012. It is imperative that you get your continuing education credit certificates in order since each renewal period the Board audits a number of professional counselors to determine if the credits listed on the license renewal application accurately reflect your obtained continuing education documentation.

The Board takes each renewal application very seriously. We believe that 40 hours of continuing education between renewal periods is vital for professional counselors to maintain their competencies which ultimately benefit, safeguard, and protect our clients. Please note if you are unable to verify your continuing education credits that are reported on your licensure renewal application, this can result in disciplinary action. In accordance with the regulations, you are required to have a total of forty (40) hours of continuing education, six (6) hours of which shall be on Ethics and four (4) hours shall be on trauma counseling.

There is another important matter that will impact the renewal process for the very first time this year. It is the need for each professional counselor to undergo a criminal background check (CBC). Some of you may have heard about the need for the CBC. However, this is the first official notice to all licensed professional counselors. For those interested in reading the new regulation in its entirety, it is cited as: Criminal Background Check, Division I. Government of District; Title 3. District of Columbia Boards and Commissions; Subtitle I. General; Chapter 12. Health Occupations Boards; Subchapter V. Licensing, Registration, or Certification of Health Professionals of the D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.22.

Briefly, the regulations state:

- (a) No license or registration shall be issued to a health professional before a criminal background check has been conducted for that person. The applicant for a license or registration shall pay the fee established by the Department of Health for the criminal background check.
- (b) The criminal background check shall be obtained by the Department of Health from the U.S. Department of Justice, or from a private agency determined by the Department of Health. The results of the criminal background check shall be forwarded directly to the appropriate health licensing board.

The CBC screening process is staggered by profession to reduce overcrowding of professionals requesting checks. The CBC screening for professional counselors will begin October 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013.

Inside this newsletter you will find answers to frequently asked questions about the CBC process. The Board of Professional Counseling and its staff is here to answer your questions. Please do not hesitate to call the office or to attend one of our monthly meetings to share your concerns and questions with us. Licensure board meetings are held the second Friday of each month at 10:00 am. All the best for a wonderful Fall season and thank you for the work you do each day to help clients and our communities.



Victoria A. Sardi, PhD, LPC
Chair, DC Board of Professional Counseling

WHEN YOU MOVE OR CHANGE YOUR NAME:

Licensees sometimes forget to inform the Board of Professional Counseling when they move or change names. If we do not have your current address, you may not receive your renewal mailing because we may send it to your former address.

All name and address changes must be submitted in writing to our office within 30 days of the change.

Failure to do so may result in a \$100 fine. Please include your name, address, Social Security number, and license number, if you know it. If you have a name change, you must also enclose a copy of your certificate of marriage, divorce decree, or court order that authorizes the change.

Fax your request to (202) 724-5145, or mail your name and address change to:

DC Board of
Professional Counseling,
Attn: Processing
Department,
Address/Name Change,
899 North Capitol St NE,
First Floor,
Washington, DC 20002

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO RENEW

- 1) All licensees will be required to undergo a state and federal Criminal Background Check (CBC). *If you were licensed after January 2011, and already underwent a CBC for DC licensure, you are exempt from this requirement.*
 - 2) To access your renewal application beginning on October 1, 2012, go online at www.hpla.doh.dc.gov. **No CBCs will be done/accepted unless a renewal application has been completed and filed with our office.**
 - 3) Answer **ALL** questions completely and truthfully to avoid delays in processing your application. If you are aware of an incident in your past that may result in a positive criminal background check, you must provide the supporting documentation (including court documents) that explains the outcome of the case.
 - 4) If you are currently not in compliance with the Board, your ability to renew may be denied until you satisfy the request of the Board.
 - 5) The licensure renewal fee is \$145. In addition, Criminal Background Check fee is \$50.*
**varies by state*
 - 6) CE's—All licensees must have completed 40 hours of continuing education (CE) credits prior to renewal to be eligible for renewal. Random audits will be conducted in March 2013.
 - 7) All licenses will expire on December 31, 2012. Please begin the renewal process early.
- Any false statement on your renewal application will result in disciplinary action being taken against your license.

General Renewal Questions: **1 (877) 672-2174** / Website: www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

APPLY TO SERVE ON THE BOARD

If you are a resident of the District of Columbia, in practice for 3 years or more and in good standing with the Board, you may apply to serve on the Board of Professional Counseling.

For full instructions on how to apply, please contact the Mayor's Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC).

OBC Website: www.obc.dc.gov

Phone: (202) 727-1372

Fax: (202) 727-2359

Address: Office of Boards and Commissions
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Suite 302
Washington, DC 20004

LICENSURE RENEWAL PROCESS

LICENSES EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2012

RENEW YOUR LICENSE VIA THE INTERNET.

TO RENEW ONLINE YOU MUST USE INTERNET EXPLORER 6.0 OR HIGHER AND PAY BY MASTERCARD OR VISA. OUR SYSTEM IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH GOOGLE CHROME OR SAFARI.

Before you log-on to our website, please have these items available:

- Your Social Security number
- Your Visa or MasterCard, in order to pay your renewal fee of \$145 online.

WHEN YOU ARE READY TO LOG-ON TO OUR WEB SITE:

- Enter www.hpla.doh.dc.gov into the address field of your web browser
 - Click on Online License Renewal
 - Type in your Social Security number and last name and click on "Search" tab
 - At the Registration page, you must create a User ID and Password
 - Type in your newly created User ID and Password and follow the step-by-step instructions to complete the renewal process.
- Please be sure to printout a copy of the "Confirmation Page" for your records.

AFTER YOU FINISH THE ON-LINE RENEWAL AT OUR WEB SITE, SEND US:

- If you do not currently have a photo on your license, you will need to send TWO (2) 2"x2" photos of yourself (identical passport-size photos; plain background, front-view, fade-proof), and write on the back of the photos your full name and license number or Social Security number.
- If you answer "yes" to the question in "Section 6", please mail the supporting document (s).
- Mail the items to:
HPLA - ATTN: Professional Counseling Renewal
899 North Capitol Street NE-First Floor
Washington, DC 20002
- After 24 hours, you may verify your completed renewal at: <http://hpla.doh.dc.gov/weblookup>

NOTE: Please do not submit copies of CEs unless selected for the CE Audit.
CEs are NOT required for first-time renewals.

TO REQUEST A PAPER RENEWAL APPLICATION OR APPLY FOR PAID INACTIVE STATUS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.HPLA.DOH.DC.GOV OR CALL 1-877-672-2174 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:30 AM AND 4:30 PM EST - MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

The DC Board of Professional Counseling meets the second Friday of each month at 9:30 am at 899 N. Capitol Street, NE, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20002. Time is allocated during Open Session at each Board Meeting to allow the public an opportunity to speak to the Board. Please notify us in advance if you plan to attend a meeting by sending an email to:

HPLA@DC.GOV

HELP US TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

Please send an email informing the Board of your email address at:

NAKIA.SNIDER@DC.GOV

The Board will be distributing the Board newsletter electronically.

To use HPLA's website to check and verify a license, go to: www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK (CBC) PROCESS

WHERE CAN I GET MY CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK DONE?

Health professionals licensed in the District of Columbia can now receive live scan Criminal Background Check services with MorphoTrust USA (formerly called "L-1 Enrollment"). For more information on how to receive a live scan Criminal Background Check via MorphoTrust Services visit the MorphoTrust USA website or call 1-877-783-4187.

APPLICANTS COMPLETING CBC THROUGH MORPHOTRUST USA

Applicants choosing to use MorphoTrust USA for CBC will pay MorphoTrust directly for this service. Applicants have the following options to schedule fingerprinting appointments with MorphoTrust USA.

1. On-line Live-Scan Scheduling

- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 1. Go to the website, www.L1enrollment.com.
 2. Click on the map link to DC.
 3. Choose Online Scheduling and enter required information and select desired appointment.

2. Call Center Scheduling

- Available Monday - Friday, 9am – 5pm EST.
Call **(877) 783-4187** and speak to one of the operators.
 1. Operators will collect required information and schedule your appointment.
 2. Be sure to write down your appointment date, time and location provided by the operator.
 3. Out of State Applicants who reside out of the District of Columbia, or are physically unable to go to a location to be fingerprinted may use MorphoTrust USA's Card Scan Processing Program.

This program utilizes advanced scanning technology to convert a traditional fingerprint card (hard card) into an electronic fingerprint record. Converting a "hard card" into an electronic record enables an applicant to have their fingerprint record processed as quickly as if they had traveled to an electronic fingerprint processing location. Applicants must go online to the MorphoTrust USA website or call 1-877-783-4187.

** A FBI Name Search request will be requested by MorphoTrust (formerly doing business as L-1 Enrollment) on behalf of DC DOH if an applicant has received two fingerprint rejections based on quality. Once MorphoTrust personnel receive notice that an applicant has received a second rejection, a name search request form will be submitted by approved MorphoTrust personnel directly to the FBI.

CAN I APPLY FOR A TEMPORARY LICENSE IN THE DISTRICT? The Board does not issue Temporary Licenses.

LIVE SCAN FINGERPRINTING



TWO CHECKS!

Your first check, made payable to "DC Treasurer", will cover the fee for your renewal. Your second, separate check will go towards the Criminal Background Check (CBC); that fee is \$50 for DC residents. **CBC fees vary by state.**

LICENSED AFTER JANUARY 2011

If you were licensed after January 2011, and already underwent a CBC for DC licensure, you are exempt from this requirement for this renewal.

PREVIOUS HPLA CBC

If you have completed a CBC for the purpose of licensure with DC Health Professional Licensing Administration (HPLA), you are not required to complete another CBC until 2016.

CBC FINGERPRINT VENDOR LOCATED AT DOH

You can get your CBC fingerprinting done at the MorphoTrust location on the first floor at the Health Professional Licensing Administration. We are located at 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington DC 20002 (across the street from Gonzaga High School).

SUBMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION BEFORE CBC

No CBCs will be done/accepted unless a renewal application has been completed and filed with our office.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR LICENSE!

All licenses expire on December 31, 2012. The renewal period will end midnight December 31, 2012.

All licensees will be able to begin to access renewal forms online beginning on October 1, 2012.

Please remember that only CEs obtained in the two years immediately before the renewal date will be accepted. You are to have completed 40 CEs at the time of renewal.

CEs are not required for those who are first-time renewal applicants who were licensed by exam or were enrolled in an approved training program during any part of the two-year period prior to approval.

The Board will conduct a random CE audit immediately following the renewal period.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

All licensees are required to complete their own renewal applications. Please verify your CEs by checking the box as to whether or not you will have completed your 40 hours of continuing education credit by December 31, 2012.

PER YOUR REGULATIONS

6610.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for the initial license by examination, reciprocity, or endorsement, nor shall it apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.

6610.3 A continuing education credit shall be valid only if it is part of a program or activity approved by the Board in accordance with §6611.

6610.4 An applicant for renewal of a license shall submit proof of having completed forty (40) hours of approved continuing education credit during the two-year (2) period preceding the date the license expires. Six (6) of the forty (40) shall be in Ethics and four (4) of the forty (40) shall be in Trauma Counseling.

BOARD WELCOMES SENIOR HEALTH LICENSING SPECIALIST

The Professional Counseling Board welcomes Senior Health Licensing Specialist Eric Yeager, Esq. Mr. Yeager has almost 20 years of experience as an attorney and legal writer in intellectual property law, covering innovations in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical devices, electronics, computers, telecommunications, energy, and an array of other technological areas. He has written extensively on developments related to patent prosecution, licensing, litigation, and legislation at the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Copyright Office, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.



Eric Yeager, Esq.

In addition to studying legal and regulatory issues for the Department of Health, he will apply his skills for producing web-based video news

interviews and information segments to create videos and other tools to enhance the user experience of visitors to the Board website.

PUBLIC VS. NON-PUBLIC DISCIPLINE

Public Discipline

Disciplinary actions that are reported to the National Practitioners Data Bank and viewed at:

<http://app.hpla.doh.dc.gov/weblookup/>

Non-Public Discipline

Disciplinary actions that constitute an agreement between the Board and the licensee and, if complied, are not made public.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE CONTINUING EDUCATION AUDIT?

District of Columbia Professional Counselors will soon be renewing their licenses, which must be renewed on or before December 31, 2012 or else they will expire. At the conclusion of the renewal period, the Board will conduct a random audit to ensure compliance with the continuing education requirements. If you are selected in the audit, you will be notified by letter and provided instructions for submitting your materials.

Please be sure to submit all requested materials within thirty (30) days as requested and to keep a copy of your records in case your original submission is lost or misdirected. DO NOT send your original certificates to the Board; keep these for your files.

Please take note that the random selections are generated by computer. This means that an individual can be selected in back-to-back consecutive audits. If you are selected, you must submit proof of completion of the required continuing education courses whether or not you were selected in a previous audit.

DC MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

6610.4 An applicant for renewal of a license shall submit proof of having completed forty (40) hours of approved continuing education credit during the two-year (2) period preceding the date the license expires. Six (6) of the forty (40) hours shall be in Ethics and four (4) of the forty (40) shall be in Trauma Counseling.

6610.7 An applicant under this section shall prove completion of required continuing education credits by submitting with the application the following information with respect to each program:

- (a) The name and address of the sponsor of the program;
- (b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;
- (c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;
- (d) The hours of credit claimed;
- (e) Verification by the sponsor of completion, by signature or stamp; and
- (f) An applicant under this section shall prove completion of continuing education course work by submitting with the application a signed statement from the instructor on university stationery for each class attended.

6610.11 If an applicant for renewal of a license fails to submit proof of completion of continuing education requirements or pay the late fee within sixty (60) days after the expiration of the applicant's license, the license shall be considered to have lapsed on the date of expiration.

PAID INACTIVE STATUS

If you intend to retire your license, or if you would like to place your license on Inactive Status, you must explicitly inform the Board of your intention before the renewal date expires. If you fail to pay renewal fees on time, your license is not inactive; it is delinquent (expired). It is unlawful to practice as a Professional Counselor while your license is delinquent/expired.

PAID INACTIVE FEE:	\$177 (one-time fee)
TIME LIMITATION:	UNLIMITED
FEE TO REACTIVATE YOUR LICENSE:	\$ 34
CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE):	Licenses on Paid Inactive status must continue to meet the continuing education requirements; CE must be presented to the Board when applying for licensure reactivation.

Contact Customer Service at **1 (877) 672-2174**,
or Ms. Nakia Snider at: **(202) 724-4939** for further information.

CE AUDIT RESPONSE FORM

The Board of Professional Counseling has implemented a new audit form for licensees selected during the CE Audit. **If you have been selected for Audit, please submit the form below** to the Board of Professional Counseling at: DC Board of Professional Counseling, Attn: CE Audit, 899 North Capitol Street NE, First Floor, Washington DC 20002.

Name (please print): _____

License Number: _____ Total CE hours completed between **January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012:** _____

Please fill out chart below: (40) hours of approved continuing education. A minimum of (4) of the 40 hours shall be in trauma and (6) hours shall be in ethics.

NAME OF COURSE & ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDED THE PROGRAM	Date course was taken	Number of Contact Hours	Was it Live or Distance/ Online?	Hours of Ethics/ Trauma Counseling
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

MIRNA AMAYA was born in El Salvador. She came here with her family when she was four years old and grew up in Washington, DC. She graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with a Bachelor in Psychology and a Masters in Counseling. She is a Bilingual Licensed Professional Counselor, working with children, adolescents, adults and families in the Mental Health Program at Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc. here in Washington, DC. She has almost 10 years of experience working as a bilingual therapist and is a Supervisory Level trained therapist of TF-CBT which is one of her strong interests in addition to mood disorders in children and adults. She sits in the DC Government Licensing Board of Professional Counseling appointed by the Mayor and is a member of the National Board of Certified Counselor. She is at the present time getting a certification as a PCIT therapist through the collaboration of the DC Evidence-Based Associated and the University of Florida.

ARTHUR BLECHER, DMin, LPC was born in New York City and grew up in Easton, Pennsylvania, where he graduated with honors from Lafayette College. He returned to New York in 1969 for graduate school. He earned an MA in classical Hebrew Literature in 1972, and received his Graduate Rabbinical Degree with honors in 1975. He complete course work in psychology and counseling in New York and in Washington, and served internships at Bernstein Pastoral Psychiatry Center and Madeleine Borg Child Guidance Institute of the Jewish Board of Guardians in New York City and the Family Therapy Practice Center in Washington. He earned his doctorate in psychology from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1994; his thesis was on the mental health issues of interfaith couples. He completed post-grad training in the assessment and treatment of PTSD from the EMDR Institute in 2001. He was first licensed as a Professional Counselor in the District of Columbia in 1995. He is a member of the American Association of Mental Health Counselors Association. Dr. Blecher maintains a private practice as professional counselor specializing in the assessment and treatment of survivors of trauma and abuse, PTSD, anxiety, phobia and OCD. He has been an expert witness in United States Immigration and Naturalization Courts in Baltimore and Arlington since 2001, and he is an advisor to the Immigrant Justice Law Clinic of American University. Dr. Blecher has served on the Board of Professional Counseling since 2009.

LAURIE A. FERRERI, MA, NCC, MAC, LPC is licensed as a professional counselor in DC and VA. She is Board Certified with NBCC, and is a Master Addictions Counselor. For the past 22 years, she has been employed by the City of Alexandria as a Senior Therapist, providing individual and group counseling, family consultations, HIV prevention/education, and HIV testing. She has a private practice in DC and provides clinical supervision to licensees. She is past president of the DCMHCA and has served on the DC Board of Professional Counselors since 2009.

TERRI SPENCER, MEd, LPC has been a member of the District of Columbia Professional Licensing Board since 2008 and currently works for the DC Department of Mental Health as an Accountability Analyst responsible for auditing and monitoring mental health providers within the DC Mental Health System. Mrs. Spencer worked for and ultimately managed an outpatient mental health clinic in Washington DC from 1999-2009. Mrs. Spencer also served on the District of Columbia Behavioral Health Association Board from 2007-2009, serving as Treasurer, Vice President, and President in three consecutive years. Mrs. Spencer holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary/Middle School Education and a Master of Education degree from Frostburg State University in Guidance and Counseling.

EXPEDITE YOUR LICENSE

Please be sure to have your entire application filled out and signed. You must provide "official" supporting documentation to any and all application questions and/or statements that require a detailed explanation: Official court documents of final case dispositions for any felonies or misdemeanors that you incurred (i.e., a defendant, in any state or country); malpractice case dispositions should include a case number, jurisdiction, year, all the defendant names, all plaintiff names, a brief summary of the case, and final disposition, such as judgment dollar amount, dismissed with or without prejudice, or settlement dollar amount. This information must be sent with your application.

BOARD ORDERS

January 2012 through December 2012

PUBLIC

Robert King, CACII (04/30/2012) - Initial application for certification denied by the Board because the applicant was found to have exploited a client for personal gain.

Larry Ricks, CACII (04/13/2012) - Initial application for certification denied by the Board because the applicant was convicted of crimes involving moral turpitude.

Wayne Stroman, CACI (05/03/2012) - Initial application for certification was denied by the Board because the applicant was found to have participated in unethical conduct with a client.

Alvoid Washington, LPC (04/13/2012) - Professional License Revoked for fraudulently or deceptively obtaining a license and practicing without a license.

NON-PUBLIC

1 Non-public action.

FILING A COMPLAINT WITH THE BOARD

To file a complaint against a licensed Professional Counselor, simply write a letter that describes your complaint. The letter must be signed, and you should attach copies of any pertinent documents that you may have. The letter must also include your address, so we may contact you as necessary and notify you of any findings.

PLEASE NOTE: You can print a complaint form from our website at www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

You should mail the complaint to:

DC Board of Professional Counseling
899 North Capitol Street NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

You can also fax the complaint to the Board at (202) 724-8677.

If your complaint alleges unlicensed activity, you should address your complaint to:

Supervisory Investigator
899 North Capitol Street NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

You can also fax your complaint about unlicensed activity to (202) 724-8677.

Please be advised that the health professional licensing boards do not have jurisdiction over fee disputes, except for billing for services that were not provided. If you have a fee dispute with a health professional, you can seek redress through the civil courts.



Government of the District of Columbia
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor



Health Professional
Licensing Administration

Address

DC Board of
Professional Counseling
899 North Capitol Street NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Phone

(202) 724-4939

Fax

(202) 724-8677

Webpage

www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

DC Government website

www.dc.gov

**Current Members
of The District of Columbia
Board of Professional Counseling**

Victoria A. Sardi, PhD, LPC
Chair

Arthur Blecher, DMin, LPC
Vice Chair

Laurie A. Ferreri, MA, NCC, MAC, LPC
Board Member

Mirna Amaya, MA, LPC
Board Member

Terri Spencer, MEd, LPC
Board Member

Interim Director,
Department of Health
Saul Levin, MD, MPA

Board Staff

Executive Director
Bonnie Rampersaud
Phone: (202) 724-7332
Email: bonnie.rampersaud@dc.gov

Health Licensing Specialist
Nakia Snider
Phone: (202) 724-4939
Email: nakia.snider@dc.gov

Assistant Attorney General
Van Brathwaite, Esq.

Investigator
Rebecca Odrick

Newsletter Editor/Layout
Nancy Kofie

To use HRLA's website to check and verify a license, go to: www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

D.C. Board of Professional Counseling
899 North Capitol Street NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002