

Compulsive Gambling Counselor Certification

An individual applying for certification as a compulsive gambling counselor (CGC) must:

- Satisfactorily complete a Compulsive Gambling Counseling Training Program sponsored or approved by the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Missouri Department of Mental Health;
- Provide a current resume; and
- Possess and maintain at least one of the following counseling credentials:
 - Certified Substance Abuse Counselor I, II or Advanced, issued by the Missouri Substance Abuse Counselors' Certification Board, Inc.
 - License to practice Clinical Social Work, Clinical Psychology, Psychiatry, or Professional Counseling, issued by the Missouri Department of Professional Registration.

The code of ethics applicable to the counselor's prior credential shall apply to the practice of counseling compulsive gamblers and/or their family members. Any sanctions arising from ethics violations shall be deemed as applying equally to the CGC.

Applicants who meet all requirements for certification shall be issued a Compulsive Gambling Counselor certificate that is current for a period of two years. The credential shall be effective only as long as the counselor maintains the effective prior credential and has no sanctions arising from a code of ethics' violation, as described in No. 1 above.

If an individual has successfully completed the 60-hour training but has not been certified in Missouri because the prior credential has not been acquired, he/she may still qualify for certification as follows:

- The prior credential must be granted within two (2) years of the completion of the initial training. A provisional license does not qualify an applicant for certification.
- If the individual requires the full two years to obtain the qualifying credential, he/she must also acquire the fourteen (14)-hour continuing education. The continuing education may be pro-rated if the qualifying credential is granted in less than two years.

The counselor must reapply for the CGC certification every two years. Requirements for recertification are as follows:

- The counselor must have received during the past two (2) years at least fourteen (14) hours of training sponsored or approved by the Division.
- The fourteen (14) hours must be directly related to the treatment of compulsive gambling.
- The fourteen (14) hours shall foster development of clinical skills and knowledge at a level beyond that required for initial certification. This level of training will be referred to as "advanced training."

Need more info? Nora Bock
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