

Alcohol & Drug Counselor Committee



consumer *brief*

When a member of the public in New Jersey is suffering from the terrible effects of dependence on alcohol or illegal or prescription drugs, to whom should that person turn for help?

THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee was established in 1998 to protect the citizens of this State by setting standards of education, ethics, competencies and experience for those persons presently practicing and for those seeking to practice and be licensed or certified as alcohol and drug counselors in New Jersey. Licensing and certification enables other professionals, health care providers, employers and the general public to recognize qualified, practicing alcohol and drug counselors and provide assurances that alcohol and drug counselors meet acceptable standards that will encourage quality treatment and rehabilitation for alcohol and drug abusers.

The Committee is comprised of five members including two Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors, two Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors and one public member. The Committee issues licenses and certifications and disciplines licensees and certificate holders pursuant to the provisions of the law.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

It is important for anyone seeking the assistance of an alcohol and drug counselor to understand the scope of practice and the required education and experience for both Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors (L.C.A.D.C.'s) and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors (C.A.D.C.'s). L.C.A.D.C.'s may independently diagnose and treat addiction-related disorders. Certified A.D.C.'s may treat addiction-related disorders but they may do so only under supervision, and they are not permitted to diagnose. L.C.A.D.C.'s must have received a master's degree in counseling from an accredited institution of higher education,

or a master's degree in an addictions- or counseling-related area which shall include 18 graduate semester hours in counseling from an accredited institution of higher education (See, N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.2(b) for a description of the required areas of study).



C.A.D.C.'s must have earned either a high school diploma, a certificate of high school equivalency, an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree. In addition, C.A.D.C.'s and L.C.A.D.C.'s must have completed 300 hours of supervised practical training, two years of supervised work experience, and they also must have completed 270 hours of approved alcohol and drug education. All required education for both L.C.A.D.C.'s and C.A.D.C.'s must be approved by the International Certification Reciprocity Consortium (I.C.R.C.) or the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (N.A.A.D.A.C.), also known as the Association for Addiction Professionals, in those states that have N.A.A.D.A.C. certification. L.C.A.D.C.'s also must have attended 30 hours of alcohol and drug abuse self-help meetings, meaning meetings run by organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or Alanon.

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CHECKING A LICENSE OR FILING A CONSUMER COMPLAINT- IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION.

Consumers may go to the Web to:
www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/adc/Pages/verification.aspx
to ensure that a particular alcohol and drug counselor has been licensed or certified by the State, and that the license or certificate is in good standing.

If a consumer has a complaint about an alcohol or drug counselor, the complaint form can be found by going to www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/Pages/File-a-Complaint.aspx. Fill out the form completely and send it, along copies of any pertinent documents, to the Committee. The Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee investigates all complaints. Complaints are processed for Committee review after the complainant has been asked to supply as much information as possible about the situation. The investigation may take a few months to be completed.

The Committee believes that a well-informed public is a better-protected public. If you would like to review a full description of what is considered to be proper professional conduct by an L.C.A.D.C. or a C.A.D.C., go to the Committee's Web page, www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/adc/Pages/default.aspx, and click on **Laws and Regulations**.

Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors offer rehabilitation and a refuge from the frightening realities of addiction. New Jersey's Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee is dedicated to serving the members of the public who so desperately need the services of its licensees or certificate holders.

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General **DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**



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