

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT  
TO THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
COUNSELORS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY  
THERAPISTS CHAPTER 135-9 CONTINUING EDUCATION, RULE 135-9-.01  
REQUIREMENTS, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists Rule Chapter 135-9 Continuing Education, Rule 135-9-.01 Requirements (hereinafter "proposed rule amendment").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being provided to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a distribution list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists website at [www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/counselors](http://www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/counselors) or by contacting the Board office at 844-753-7825.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at **2:15 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020**, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be person limited to five (5) minutes per. Written comments are welcomed. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:30 p.m. EDT) on **Friday, March 27, 2020**. Written comments should be addressed to La Trenda Tyler-Jones, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Fax (866) 888-7127.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at its meeting scheduled to begin at **2:15 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020** at the Georgia Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists

has the authority to adopt proposed rule amendments 135-9-.01 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c)(1), 43-10A-7(b)(9) through (11) for religious exemptions, and 43-10A-16.

At its meeting Friday, January 10, 2020, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c)(1), 43-10A-7(b)(9) through (11) for religious exemptions, and 43-10A-16.

Additionally, at its meeting Friday, January 10, 2020, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c)(1), 43-10A-7(b)(9) through (11) for religious exemptions, and 43-10A-16 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Professional Counseling, Social Work and Marriage and Family Therapy.

For further information, contact the Board office at 844-753-7825.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13-4).

This 2nd day of March, 2020

La Trena Tyler-Jones  
La Trena Tyler-Jones  
Division Director  
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: \_\_\_\_\_

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE  
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, SOCIAL WORKERS, AND  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS RULE FOR CHAPTER 135-9  
CONTINUING EDUCATION, RULE 135-9-.01 REQUIREMENTS**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this rule is to further define and clarify continuing education hours activities; to allow, provide for and define the acceptance of electronic means of presenting courses, seminars or other continuing education programs; and to incorporate current separate rule language regarding continuing education hours documentation retention and Board audits into one, concise rule.

**Main Features:** The rule provides for acceptance of electronic means of delivery of a continuing education course or presentation as live or in person hours, and defining what constitutes web based courses and presentations to be “online”. The rule changes allow for more clarity with regard to the specifics of acceptable hours, corrects typographical errors and incorporates the language from current rule 135-9-.02 Documentation, into this rule; clarifies a continuing education audit for licensure renewals.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND  
FAMILY THERAPISTS RULE FOR CHAPTER 135-9 CONTINUING  
EDUCATION, RULE 135-9-.01 REQUIREMENTS**

*Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; ~~lined through text~~ is proposed to be deleted.*

**Rule 135-9-.01. Requirements – Beginning October 01, 2020**

**(1) Definitions:**

(a) Synchronous activities require participants and instructors to be present at the same time. These activities can be face-to-face or online. Lectures, discussions, and presentations must occur at a specific time at which all participants are present. It may be a virtual classroom, but must allow participants to ask and teachers to answer questions instantly, either face-to-face, or through instant messaging. Synchronous activities may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. In-person (live): Participants are physically present at the location where the presentation, lecture, workshop, or seminar is being held and are present for the entire length of the activity;

2. Webinars: A presentation, lecture, workshop, or seminar that is transmitted via the internet and allows full participation between the participants and the presenter(s); or,

3. Video conferencing: Participants are in two or more locations in a virtual conference room and communicate as if they were sitting right next to each other.

(b) Asynchronous activities are online courses or a recording of a previously held program that one can access on one's own schedule.

(c) Independent Study means a variety of self-directed professional study activities including, but not limited to, writing papers or books for presentation or publication; making presentations on major professional issues or programs; reading professional journals and books; preparing for initial consultation, teaching, or training assignments; and engaging in independent study, research, or tutorial projects.

(d) Academic Hour means one (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent to fifteen (15) clock hours of continuing education. One (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) clock hours of continuing education.

(e) Core hours mean continuing education hours acquired in activities in the specialty in which the license is held; e.g. professional counseling core hours must reflect professional counseling content, social work core hours must reflect social work content, and marriage and family therapy core hours must reflect marriage and family therapy content.

(f) Related hours mean continuing education hours acquired in activities in a specialty other than the one in which the license is held or in the allied professions of psychiatry, psychiatric nursing or psychology.

## **(2) Continuing Education Requirements:**

(1) (a) Thirty-five (35) clock hours of continuing education are required biennially to be obtained within the two (2) year biennial licensure cycle to renew each license, including associate level licenses. The biennial licensure cycle is the two (2) year period beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> of each even numbered year, and ending on September 30<sup>th</sup> of every subsequent even numbered year.

1. When the license is initially issued during the second year of the licensure cycle, on or after October 1<sup>st</sup> of each odd numbered year, no continuing education is required for the initial, first renewal of the license.

2. At the next renewal cycle the licensee must comply with all continuing education requirements.

3. When a master social worker, associate professional counselor, or an associate marriage and family therapist level license is superseded by the issuance of a clinical social worker, a professional counselor or a marriage and family therapist license, Rule 135-9-.01(2)(a)(1) above does not apply, and the licensee is required to meet continuing education hours required for license renewal as set forth in Chapter 135-9.

(2) (b) A minimum of five (5) of the thirty-five (35) hours shall be specifically designated as continuing education in professional ethics relating to any of the specialties of Pprofessional Ccounseling, Ssocial Wwork, or Mmarriage and Ffamily Ttherapy. Ethics hours may shall be obtained through synchronous

~~activities only, from any of the sources listed in paragraphs (5) and (6) (a)–(d) below. Continuing education hours in professional ethics cannot be obtained through independent study, or online. Independent study is defined in paragraph (7) below.~~

(3) (c) Of the remaining thirty (30) hours, a minimum of fifteen (15) shall be core hours and not more than fifteen (15) shall be related hours.

(4) (d) A maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education may be obtained online asynchronously for each two-year renewal period.

(5) (e) ~~Core hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in the specialty in which the license is held; e.g. PC core hours must reflect PC content, SW core hours must reflect SW content and MFT core hours must reflect MFT content. Core hours may shall be obtained through graduate-level education, conferences, workshops, seminars, or on-line synchronous or asynchronous courses activities approved for continuing education by organizations authorized to offer continuing education credit. Such activities shall be sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by:~~

~~(a) 1. a A professional association in the specialty in which the license is held; or .~~

~~(b) 2. A an academic department in the specialty in which the license is held:~~

~~1- (i) Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialty in which the license is held and when the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board set forth in Chapter 135-5. Graduate level coursework listed on the transcript as "independent studies" must be well documented in order to be accepted by the Composite Board. Documentation can include, but is not limited to, a contract signed by the instructor of record.~~

~~2- (ii) One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent to fifteen (15) hours of continuing education, and an one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) ~~eleek~~ hours of continuing education, up to a maximum of twenty (20) hours or .~~

~~(c) 3. a A licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialty in which the license is held. If the board is a composite board, the activity must be specifically approved for continuing education in the specialty in which the license is held.~~

(6) (f) Related hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in a specialty other than the one in which the license is held or in the allied professions of Ppsychiatry, Ppsychiatric Nnursing, or Ppsychology, or Pastoral Counseling. Related hours may be obtained from:

(a) 1. a Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by professional associations in the specialties of Pprofessional Ccounseling, Ssocial Wwork,

~~M~~marriage and ~~F~~family ~~T~~therapy or the allied professions for ~~P~~psychiatry, ~~P~~psychiatric ~~N~~nursing, ~~or~~ ~~P~~psychology, ~~or~~ ~~P~~astoral ~~C~~counseling, or allied health specialties, ~~or~~ .

~~(b)~~ 2. ~~a~~Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by an academic department in the specialties of ~~P~~professional ~~C~~counseling, ~~S~~social ~~W~~work, ~~M~~marriage and ~~F~~family ~~T~~therapy or the allied professions of ~~P~~psychiatry, ~~P~~psychiatric ~~N~~nursing, ~~or~~ ~~P~~psychology, ~~or~~ ~~P~~astoral ~~C~~counseling.

1- (i) Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, or Psychology, or Pastoral Counseling and specialty in which the license is held and when the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board as set forth in Chapter 135-5.

~~2-~~ (ii) One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent of fifteen (15) ~~ele~~ clock hours of continuing education, and an one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) ~~ele~~ clock hours of continuing education; ~~or~~ .

~~(e)~~ 3. ~~a~~Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by a licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialties of ~~P~~professional ~~C~~counseling, ~~S~~social ~~W~~work, ~~M~~marriage and ~~F~~family ~~T~~therapy or the allied professions of ~~P~~psychiatry, ~~P~~psychiatric ~~N~~nursing, ~~or~~ ~~P~~psychology, ~~or~~ ~~P~~astoral ~~C~~counseling ~~or~~ .

~~(d)~~ 4. ~~a~~Activities sponsored by federal, state, or local government agencies, ~~public~~ school systems and licensed hospitals; ~~or~~ .

~~(7)~~ (g) Independent Study is limited to five (5) hours in activities such as: teaching a course, presenting a lecture, or conducting a workshop for the first time; listening to audiotapes; viewing videotapes; reading books or articles which may contain exit quizzes; editing or writing professional books or articles; and conducting professional research. The licensee shall submit an affidavit attesting to number of hours of independent study completed. No more than five (5) hours of continuing education shall be in independent study. Neither Ethics nor core hours may not be obtained through independent study, or online. Core hours may not be obtained through independent study. If selected for a continuing education audit at renewal, the licensee shall submit a notarized affidavit attesting to number of hours of independent study completed.

~~(8)~~ (h) The professional association, academic department, licensing or certification board, state, or local government agency, ~~public school system~~ or licensed hospital that sponsors, co-sponsors or approves the continuing education activity shall certify the number of clock hours of education content in each activity. The certificate of attendance for the continuing education hours should include whether the activity was synchronous or asynchronous.

~~(9)~~ (i) A Standards Committee may, in its discretion, accept continuing education hours obtained from sources substantially similar to those listed in (§ e) and (6-f) above.

~~(10)~~ (j) No more than twenty (20) hours of continuing education shall be from any one continuing education or academic coursework, workshop, or presentation. This limit does not apply to professional conferences which offer multiple presentations.

~~(11)~~ (k) Any continuing education hour may be applied towards the renewal of a license in more than one specialty, provided that the continuing education hour meets the requirements set out in (§ e) or (6-f) above.

~~(12)~~ (l) Continuing education hours earned in professional ethics exceeding the five (5) required for renewal may be applied to meet requirements for core or related hours when they meet the requirements set out in (§ e) or (6-f) above.

~~(13)~~ (m) If, at the Board's request, a licensee completes a peer review of an alleged violation of the law or the Board's Rules, the licensee shall satisfy the five (5) hours of continuing education required in professional ethics. Such a review must be submitted as a written report to the Board.

~~(14)~~ When the license is initially issued during the second year of the renewal period after October 1 of the odd numbered year the continuing education requirements are deemed, by the Board, to impose an undue hardship upon the licensee; therefore, no continuing education is required for renewal. At the next renewal cycle the licensee must comply with all continuing education requirements specified in the Board Rules, Chapter 135-9.

### **(3) Continuing Education (CE) Board Audit**

(a) For those selected for a Board continuing education audit, the **CE Audit Reporting Form** is required to be submitted to the Board in addition to the certificates of attendance or other supporting documents. The Board will not review any CE documentation without the required audit form being included with the submission.

(b) If, following a continuing education audit, the Board disqualifies any of the documented continuing education hours and the licensee no longer meets the requirements set out in this Rule, 135-9-.01, the license will be renewed under the condition that the licensee obtains the required continuing education hours within six months of the notice of deficiency.

(c) If the licensee does not cure the deficiency within this six-month period, the license may be subject to discipline for failure to meet the requirements for renewal.

### **(4) Documentation**

(a) Each licensee shall, for a period of four (4) years, maintain documentation of completion of continuing education hours. Licensees may utilize a data bank service. The Board will not maintain continuing education files for licensees.

(b) Licensees shall attest, on their biennial license renewal application, that they have satisfied the continuing education requirements as set forth in Chapter 135-9. False attestation of satisfaction of the continuing education requirements shall subject the licensee to disciplinary action, including revocation.

(c) Each renewal cycle, the Board shall audit a fixed percentage of the renewal applications' continuing education hours. Licensees whose renewal applications are audited will be required to submit documentation of their continuing education activities. Except for independent study, such documents must be in the form of a certificate of attendance verifying whether activity is synchronous or asynchronous, a statement signed by the provider verifying participation in the activity, or an official transcript. Documentation of independent study shall be in the form of a notarized affidavit which includes a description of the activity, the subject material covered, the dates and numbers of hours involved.

**Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c)(1), 43-10A-7(b)(9) through (11) for religious exemptions, and 43-10A-16**

## **Rule 135-9-.01. Requirements – Beginning October 01, 2020**

### **(1) Definitions:**

(a) Synchronous activities require participants and instructors to be present at the same time. These activities can be face-to-face or online. Lectures, discussions, and presentations must occur at a specific time at which all participants are present. It may be a virtual classroom, but must allow participants to ask and teachers to answer questions instantly, either face-to-face or through instant messaging. Synchronous activities may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. In-person (live): Participants are physically present at the location where the presentation, lecture, workshop, or seminar is being held and are present for the entire length of the activity;
2. Webinars: A presentation, lecture, workshop, or seminar that is transmitted via the internet and allows full participation between the participants and the presenter(s); or,
3. Video conferencing: Participants are in two or more locations in a virtual conference room and communicate as if they were sitting right next to each other.

(b) Asynchronous activities are online courses or a recording of a previously held program that one can access on one's own schedule.

(c) Independent Study means a variety of self-directed professional study activities including, but not limited to, writing papers or books for presentation or publication; making presentations on major professional issues or programs; reading professional journals and books; preparing for initial consultation, teaching, or training assignments; and engaging in independent study, research, or tutorial projects.

(d) Academic Hour means one (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent to fifteen (15) clock hours of continuing education. One (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) clock hours of continuing education.

(e) Core hours mean continuing education hours acquired in activities in the specialty in which the license is held; e.g. professional counseling core hours must reflect professional counseling content, social work core hours must reflect social work content, and marriage and family therapy core hours must reflect marriage and family therapy content.

(f) Related hours mean continuing education hours acquired in activities in a specialty other than the one in which the license is held or in the allied professions of psychiatry, psychiatric nursing or psychology.

### **(2) Continuing Education Requirements:**

(a) Thirty-five (35) hours of continuing education are required to be obtained within the two (2) year biennial licensure cycle to renew each license, including associate level

licenses. The biennial licensure cycle is the two (2) year period beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> of each even numbered year, and ending on September 30<sup>th</sup> of every subsequent even numbered year.

1. When the license is initially issued during the second year of the licensure cycle, on or after October 1<sup>st</sup> of each odd numbered year, no continuing education is required for the initial, first renewal of the license.

2. At the next renewal cycle the licensee must comply with all continuing education requirements.

3. When a master social worker, associate professional counselor, or an associate marriage and family therapist level license is superseded by the issuance of a clinical social worker, a professional counselor or a marriage and family therapist license, Rule 135-9-.01(2)(a)(1) above does not apply, and the licensee is required to meet continuing education hours required for license renewal as set forth in Chapter 135-9.

(b) A minimum of five (5) of the thirty-five (35) hours shall be specifically designated as continuing education in professional ethics relating to any of the specialties of professional counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy. Ethics hours shall be obtained through synchronous activities only.

(c) Of the remaining thirty (30) hours, a minimum of fifteen (15) shall be core hours and not more than fifteen (15) shall be related hours.

(d) A maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education may be obtained asynchronously for each two-year renewal period.

(e) Core hours shall be obtained through synchronous or asynchronous activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by:

1. A professional association in the specialty in which the license is held.

2. An academic department in the specialty in which the license is held:

- (i) Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialty in which the license is held and when the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board set forth in Chapter 135-5.

- (ii) One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent to fifteen (15) hours of continuing education, and one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) hours of continuing education, up to a maximum of twenty (20) hours.

3. A licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialty in which the license is held. If the board is a composite board, the

activity must be specifically approved for continuing education in the specialty in which the license is held.

(f) Related hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in a specialty other than the one in which the license is held or in the allied professions of psychiatry, psychiatric nursing or psychology. Related hours may be obtained from:

1. Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by professional associations in the specialties of professional counseling, social work, marriage and family therapy or the allied professions for psychiatry, psychiatric nursing or psychology or allied health specialties.

2. Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by an academic department in the specialties of professional counseling, social work, marriage and family therapy or the allied professions of psychiatry, psychiatric nursing, or psychology.

(i) Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialty in which the license is held and when the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board as set forth in Chapter 135-5.

(ii) One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent of fifteen (15) hours of continuing education, and one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) hours of continuing education.

3. Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by a licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialties of professional counseling, social work, marriage and family therapy or the allied professions of psychiatry, psychiatric nursing or psychology.

4. Activities sponsored by federal, state, or local government agencies and licensed hospitals.

(g) Independent Study is limited to five (5) hours. Neither ethics nor core hours may be obtained through independent study. If selected for a continuing education audit at renewal, the licensee shall submit a notarized affidavit attesting to number of hours of independent study completed.

(h) The professional association, academic department, licensing or certification board, state, or local government agency, or licensed hospital that sponsors, co-sponsors or approves the continuing education activity shall certify the number of clock hours of education content in each activity. The certificate of attendance for the continuing education hours should include whether the activity was synchronous or asynchronous.

(i) A Standards Committee may, in its discretion, accept continuing education hours obtained from sources substantially similar to those listed in (e) and (f) above.

(j) No more than twenty (20) hours of continuing education shall be from any one continuing education or academic coursework, workshop, or presentation. This limit does not apply to professional conferences which offer multiple presentations.

(k) Any continuing education hour may be applied towards the renewal of a license in more than one specialty, provided that the continuing education hour meets the requirements set out in (e) or (f) above.

(l) Continuing education hours earned in professional ethics exceeding the five (5) required for renewal may be applied to meet requirements for core or related hours when they meet the requirements set out in (e) or (f) above.

(m) If, at the Board's request, a licensee completes a peer review of an alleged violation of the law or the Board's Rules, the licensee shall satisfy the five (5) hours of continuing education required in professional ethics. Such a review must be submitted as a written report to the Board.

### **(3) Continuing Education (CE) Board Audit**

(a) For those selected for a Board continuing education audit, the **CE Audit Reporting Form** is required to be submitted to the Board in addition to the certificates of attendance or other supporting documents. The Board will not review any CE documentation without the required audit form being included with the submission.

(b) If, following a continuing education audit, the Board disqualifies any of the documented continuing education hours and the licensee no longer meets the requirements set out in this Rule, 135-9-.01, the license will be renewed under the condition that the licensee obtains the required continuing education hours within six months of the notice of deficiency.

(c) If the licensee does not cure the deficiency within this six-month period, the license may be subject to discipline for failure to meet the requirements for renewal.

### **(4) Documentation**

(a) Each licensee shall, for a period of four (4) years, maintain documentation of completion of continuing education hours. Licensees may utilize a data bank service. The Board will not maintain continuing education files for licensees.

(b) Licensees shall attest, on their biennial license renewal application, that they have satisfied the continuing education requirements as set forth in Chapter 135-9. False attestation of satisfaction of the continuing education requirements shall subject the licensee to disciplinary action, including revocation.

(c) Each renewal cycle, the Board shall audit a fixed percentage of the renewal applications' continuing education hours. Licensees whose renewal applications are audited will be required to submit documentation of their continuing education activities. Except for independent study, such documents must be in the form of a certificate of attendance verifying whether activity is synchronous or asynchronous, a statement signed

by the provider verifying participation in the activity, or an official transcript. Documentation of independent study shall be in the form of a notarized affidavit which includes a description of the activity, the subject material covered, the dates and numbers of hours involved.

**Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c)(1), 43-10A-7(b)(9) through (11) for religious exemptions, and 43-10A-16**