

We are aware that the LPCA (Licensed Professional Counselors Association) has sent a letter to all their members requesting them to reach out to their Senator and Representative to express frustration with the implementation timeline of the Counseling Compact. As background, Georgia passed legislation in 2021 to enter an interstate compact known as the “Professional Counselors Licensure Compact” that reports to the national administrative body “Counseling Compact Commission”. There was no additional funding provided for this venture. Before we could move forward, The “Counseling Compact Commission” had to appoint members, make rules and prepare a system to work with all states.

There are many issues with their statement, and this is where we are in the process.

1. The Counseling Compact group is currently beta testing in two states projected to be ready to go live at the end of September. Only one of those states has an application developed but has not been approved by their boards for use at this time.
2. The Counseling Compact group has not finalized their policies and rules regarding data sharing and the procedure in case of accidental Personal Identifying Information (PII) being released. It is our understanding they will be adopting these rules and procedures at their September meeting and anticipate it will be ready by the end of September. At that point our CIO and IT security team will evaluate them to make sure they will protect the PII of those who have entrusted our office with its care.  
<https://counselingcompact.gov/compact-commission/rulemaking/>
3. When implementing a new compact, license, or initiative that involves other partners, our policy is to let others go first and work out all the issues that may arise so that we can move forward with a smooth transition. This protects our licensees and applicants from unnecessary frustrations. This has always proved a prudent action.
4. The Counseling Compact group has stated that all states should be onboarded no later than January 2026. We anticipate moving forward this Fall once we are confident that these policies and processes work securely and efficiently.

The Secretary, the Board and the Agency are firmly committed to implementing this. **We are scheduled to be onboarding sometime in the Fall.** We are actively working to get it established safely and securely for the citizens of Georgia.