

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
TO THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS CHAPTER
135-6 REGULATION OF LICENSES, RULE 135-6-.03 BIENNIAL RENEWAL
CYCLE, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

RULE 135-6-.03 Biennial Renewal Cycle

TO ALL INTERESTED 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 Rule 135-6-.03 Biennial Renewal Cycle (herein after “proposed rule”).

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule may also 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. The documents will also be available for review on the Board’s website at [Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists | Georgia Secretary of State \(ga.gov\)](#). Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment at a public hearing to be held at **10:30 a.m., Friday, June 10, 2022** in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. If the Board office remains closed due to the public health emergency (COVID-19), the hearing will be held via teleconference. Please see Board’s website for information on how to join the meeting via teleconference.

Interested parties affected by the rule may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on Friday, June 3, 2022. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Gabriel Sterling, Interim Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Written comments may be faxed to (866) 888-7127.

During 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 will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meeting on April 11, 2022. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule amendment does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendment cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c), 43-10A-14, 43-10A-15, 43-10A-16, and 43-10A-17. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c), 43-10A-14, 43-10A-15, 43-10A-16, and 43-10A-17 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(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 counseling, social work and marriage and family therapy.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists has the authority to adopt proposed Rule 135-6-.03 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c), 43-10A-14, 43-10A-15, 43-10A-16, and 43-10A-17.

For further information, contact the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 3rd day of May, 2022.



Gabriel Sterling
Interim Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: May 3, 2022

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD
OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, SOCIAL WORKERS, AND MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPISTS RULE FOR CHAPTER 135-6 REGULATION OF
LICENSES, RULE 135-6-.03 BIENNIAL RENEWAL CYCLE**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed amendments is housekeeping in nature and reflect recent changes made to the applicable Joint Secretary Rule, specifically Ga. Comp. R. and Regs. R. 295-2-.08 Licenses Expiring September 30 – Even Years (effective as of the 2022 renewal cycle).

Rule 135-6-.03 Biennial Renewal Cycle

- (1) All licenses shall expire on September 30th of even numbered years.
- (2) Renewal notices, mailed or e-mailed, are only sent as an accommodation. The responsibility of license renewal remains with the license holder.
- (3) The applicant for renewal shall submit to the Board, on or before September 30th of even numbered years:
 - (a) A completed application for renewal; and
 - (b) The biennial renewal fee (See Fee Schedule); and
 - (c) ~~Certification~~ Proof of having satisfied the continuing education requirement, as set forth in Rule 135-9-.01, ~~during the preceding two year period, beginning October 1st of even numbered years.~~
- (4) ~~Applications for renewal of licenses submitted between October 1st of the renewal year and December of same even numbered years will be considered late and~~ Renewal applications submitted during the late renewal period shall ~~will~~ be required to pay a late renewal penalty fee in addition to the renewal fee (See Fee Schedule). Failure to renew a license by the end of the established late renewal penalty period, which is ~~December~~ October 31st of the renewal year, shall have the same effect as a revocation and subject to reinstatement of the revoked license shall be in the discretion of the Board.
- (5) Unless the license is renewed on or before ~~September 30~~ October 31st of even numbered years, continued practice after such date shall constitute unlawful practice and is grounds for discipline.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c), 43-10A-14, 43-10A-15, 43-10A-16, and 43-10A-17

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 - (a) A completed application for renewal; and
 - (b) The biennial renewal fee (See Fee Schedule); and
 - (c) Proof of having satisfied the continuing education requirement, as set forth in Rule 135-9-.01.
- (4) Renewal applications submitted during the late renewal period shall be required to pay a late renewal penalty fee in addition to the renewal fee (See Fee Schedule). Failure to renew a license by the end of the established late renewal penalty period, which is October 31st of the renewal year, shall have the same effect as a revocation subject to reinstatement in the discretion of the Board.
- (5) Unless the license is renewed on or before October 31st of even numbered years, continued practice after such date shall constitute unlawful practice and is grounds for discipline.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c), 43-10A-14, 43-10A-15, 43-10A-16, and 43-10A-17