

**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-.04 REVOCATION OF EXPIRED  
LICENSES AND REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSES,  
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**RULE 135-6-.04 Revocation of Expired Licenses and Reinstatement of Expired Licenses**

**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-.04 Revocation of Expired Licenses and Reinstatement of Expired Licenses (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, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-15, 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, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-15, 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-.04 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-15, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2022.



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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-.04 Revocation of Expired Licenses and Reinstatement of Expired Licenses**

(1) Failure to renew a license by the end of the established late renewal penalty period, ~~December~~ October 31<sup>st</sup> of even numbered years, shall have the same effect as a revocation of said license and reinstatement of the license shall be in the discretion of the Board. If an application for reinstatement is submitted to the Board within five (5) years of the expiration date of the license, the Board shall require documentation of thirty five (35) hours of continuing education activities for EACH renewal cycle missed, a minimum of thirty five (35) of which must have been completed within two years of the date the reinstatement application is received by the Board, and payment of a late renewal penalty fee as set by the Board (See Fee Schedule). At its discretion, the Board may require additional information.

(2) If an application for reinstatement is submitted to the Board more than five (5) years after the expiration of a license, an applicant must provide the following with their application:

(a) A completed application for reinstatement, the required fee and documentation of thirty-five (35) hours of continuing education activities that were completed within two years of the date the reinstatement application is received. In addition, the applicant must (re)take and pass the required licensing examination. However, the (re)taking of the exam is not required if an applicant for reinstatement is currently, and has continuously been, licensed and practicing in another state/jurisdiction whose licensure requirements meet or exceed the current Georgia licensure requirements. All other provisions apply.

(b) In order to meet the requirements listed above (2), the applicant may use any qualifying education, experience, and supervision, including any which were applied toward his/her previous application for licensure.

(3) Associate level licenses (Associate Professional Counselor and Associate Marriage and Family Therapist) that lapse for failure to renew by the end of the established late renewal penalty period may be reinstated only once, and reinstatement is at the discretion of the Board. All other provisions apply.

**Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-15, and 43-10A-17**

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