

CRCC Position Statement on Legislative Advocacy

Adopted 02/21/15

The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) is a peer-regulated certifying organization that provides national certification as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). In support of the regulation of professional practice to ensure consumer protection, CRCC's mission is to promote quality rehabilitation counseling services to persons with disabilities through its certification program. CRCC believes all rehabilitation counselors should be certified as a CRC as the professional standard of practice. CRCC dedicates the vast majority of its resources in support of the CRC certification program.

CRCC recognizes that rehabilitation counselors may seek additional credentials, including a state-issued counseling license offered by a government entity regulating the practice of counseling in a state.

- In states that regulate the broad scope of practice of professional counseling, we support the development of consistent licensure laws and regulatory standards that recognize: 1) rehabilitation counselors as professional counselors, 2) rehabilitation counselor education programs designed to train counselors for such practice, and 3) the CRC examination as an examination that prepares individuals for the practice of counseling.
- In states that regulate the practice of clinical mental health counseling, we support: 1) the development of consistent licensure laws and regulatory standards that recognize rehabilitation counselor education programs designed to train counselors for such practice, and 2) the inclusion of a clause, typically within the exemption section, that permits rehabilitation counselors to continue to practice within the Scope of Practice for Rehabilitation Counseling and to use the title of counselor.
- In event of changes to licensure laws and/or regulatory standards, we support the grandparenting of existing credentialed counselors.

In relation to national or state-based legislation governing the practice of rehabilitation counselors in accordance with the Scope of Practice for Rehabilitation Counseling, CRCC supports the identification of CRCs as the sole professionals who are qualified to provide such services. Therefore, we support the CRC as the sole credential identified as a hiring requirement for such practice.

Where national or state-based legislation governs the practice of one or more individual practice components identified in the Scope of Practice for Rehabilitation Counseling, but not the full Scope of Practice, we support the identification of CRCs as professionals who are qualified to provide such services. Therefore, we support the CRC as being among those credentials identified as a hiring requirement for such practice.

In support of these levels of recognition for state counselor licensure, and in support of national or state-based legislation governing practice of rehabilitation counselors, CRCC will disseminate information through our electronic and social media channels when we become aware of proposed changes in laws and/or regulations, giving CRCs an opportunity to actively engage in advocacy on their own behalf and on behalf of the profession of rehabilitation counseling. CRCC will also make available, through its website, information about the CRC certification program and the CRC examination that CRCs may use in their advocacy efforts.

In support of national legislation, and following assessment of such legislation to determine its direct impact on the practice of rehabilitation counseling, CRCC will research the issues and prepare a position statement that is directly responsive to the governing entity and also widely disseminated to CRCs.