

MAJOR REVISIONS TO 172 NAC 94

LICENSURE OF INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS, MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS, AND THE CERTIFICATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND SOCIAL WORKERS

In these draft regulations, proposed changes revise or add regulations on provisions of the Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA); Laws 2007, LB 247; Laws 2008, LB 1108; and Laws 2009, LB 403. These changes will.

- Establish common definitions for active addiction, alcohol or substance abuse, attest or attestation, board, complete application, confidential information, conviction, Department, dependence, Director, license, military service, pattern of incompetent or negligent conduct, and served in the regular armed forces; (UCA) [pages 1-22]
- Revise definitions for terms including, but not limited to, approved programs, client/patient or client systems; consultation, direct client contact, mental health practice examination, qualified physician, qualified supervisor, supervised experience/supervision, and supervision; [pages 1-22]
- Add definitions for terms for certificate, independent mental health practice, licensed clinical social worker, licensed independent mental health practitioner, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed professional counselor,
- Delete definitions of actually engaged in the practice of social work, collateral contact, ethical standards, lapsed license, and verified;
- Require that a credential may only be issued to a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States who is eligible for a credential under the UCA, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to said employment in the United States; (UCA) [pages 23, 29, 36, 44, 46, 48, 49, 53, 60,]
- Establish a uniform process for initially obtaining a credential (UCA) including reciprocity to practice as:
 - A provisionally licensed mental health practitioner; [pages 23-28]
 - A licensed independent mental health practitioner; [pages 28-36]
 - A licensed mental health practitioner; [pages 36-42]
 - A certified marriage and family therapist; [pages 43-45]
 - A certified professional counselor; [pages 45-47]
 - A certified master social worker and a licensed clinical social worker; [pages 47-54]
 - A provisionally certified master social worker; [pages 54-60]
 - A certified social worker; [pages 60-64]
- Require attestation of citizenship or qualified alien status (Laws 2009, LB 403);
- Implement provisions for the licensure of independent mental health practitioners, including the specific scope of practice and requirements to attain this license; [pages 28-36]; also definitions [pages 9, 10, 12-15, and 18-22]
- Specify continuing competency requirements [pages 86 -93], including requiring two hours of ethics every two years for social workers and specifying requirements for LIMHPs and providing for waiving the continuing competency requirements for these professions for military service and for individuals who were first credentialed within the preceding 24-month period [page 95] (UCA);
- Establish a uniform process for renewal of a credential; (UCA) [pages 93-98], including:
 - Requiring that a single notice be sent to the licensee for renewal; (UCA) [page 62]
 - Providing for reinstatement of an expired license and eliminating process for revoking a license for non-renewal (UCA) [page 97]
 - Eliminating lapsed status as a renewal option; (UCA); [page 97]
- Specify a process for voluntarily surrender or limitation of a credential; (UCA) [pages 108-109] or
- Establish uniform grounds for disciplinary actions and further delineate acts or behaviors considered unprofessional conduct, including discrimination and competence, for these professions; (UCA) [pages 98-106]
- Specify a process for reinstatement of a credential; [pages 122-128]
- Remove the list of fees and refer to fees in 172 NAC 2 (new chapter), [pages 129-130].

TITLE 172 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

CHAPTER 94 ~~LICENSURE OF INDEPENDENT~~ MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS,
MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS, AND THE CERTIFICATION OF
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
AND SOCIAL WORKERS

94-001 SCOPE AND AUTHORITY: These regulations ~~apply to licensure of~~ govern the credentialing of independent mental health practitioners and ~~to mental health practitioners and~~ the associated certifications of social workers, master social workers, professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists as defined by ~~Neb. Rev. Stat. §§71-1,295~~ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§38-2101 to 38-2139 and the Uniform Licensing Law ~~Credentialing Act~~.

A license as a mental health practitioner is required if a person wishes to provide mental health services as defined in these regulations, unless s/he meets one of the exemptions identified in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§71-1,312, §38-2121 and 172 NAC 94-006. An associated certificate in social work, professional counseling, and/or marriage and family therapy is necessary only if the individual wishes to represent himself/herself as a Social Worker, Certified Professional Counselor, and/or Certified Marriage and Family Therapist.

94-002 DEFINITIONS

1. Act means ~~Neb. Rev. Stat. §§71-1,295~~ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§38-2101 to 38-2139 which is known and may be cited as the Practice of Mental Health Practice Act ~~Health section of the Uniform Licensing Law~~.

~~Actually Engaged in the Practice of Social Work includes services and activities provided under the direct supervision of a person with at least a master's degree in social work from an approved educational program or services and activities which are classified by title or description of duties and responsibilities as social work practice.~~

2. Active Addiction means current physical or psychological dependence on alcohol or a substance, which develops following the use of alcohol or a substance on a periodic or continuing basis.

3. Alcohol or Substance Abuse means a maladaptive pattern of alcohol or substance use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress as manifested by one or more of the following occurring at any time during the same 12-month period:

- a. Recurrent alcohol or substance use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home;
- b. Recurrent alcohol or substance use in situations in which it is physically hazardous;
- c. Recurrent legal problems related to alcohol or substance use; or
- d. Continued alcohol or substance use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the alcohol or substance use.

4. Actively Engaged in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy includes services and activities provided under the direct supervision of a person with at least a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from a program approved by the Board, or services and activities that are classified by title or by description of duties and responsibilities as marriage and family therapy practice.
5. Approved Continuing Education Program means courses, clinics, forums, lectures, training programs, seminars, home study programs, publications, presentations, or video, satellite or other electronic interactive programs, including formal course presentations, that pertain to mental health or the associated certificates ~~and are approved by the Board.~~
6. Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Program means:
 - a. 1. COAMFTE Accreditation: A program of graduate marriage and family therapy education and training approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE); or
 2. Related Field: A program in a related field offered by a regionally accredited higher educational institution, such as, but not limited to social work, psychology, sociology, human services, human development, family relations or counseling, must show evidence of course work in the following:
 - a. Marriage and Family Studies: At least 9 semester hours or 13.5 quarter hours. Courses in this area should be a fundamental introduction to systems theory. The student should develop an understanding of family structures and functioning within the social systems framework (including environmental context) and regarding a diverse range of presenting issues (e.g. gender, cultural, substance abuse). Topic areas may include: systems theory, family development, family subsystems, blended families, gender issues in families, cultural issues in families, etc. This area must have a major focus from systems theory orientation and encompass the social systems orientation. Survey or overview courses in which systems in one of several theories covered is not appropriate. Courses in which systems theory is the overarching framework and other theories are studied in relations to systems theory are appropriate.
 - b. Marriage and Family Therapy: At least 9 semester hours or 13.5 quarter hours. Courses in this area should have a major focus on family systems theory and systemic therapeutic interventions. This area is intended to provide a substantive understanding of the major theories of systems change, and the applied practices evolving from each theoretical orientation, including diagnosis/assessment of individuals, couples and families. Major theoretical approaches might include: strategic, structural, object relations, cognitive behavioral, intergenerational, and integrative models of therapy with individuals, couples, and families.

- ~~c. Human Development: At least 9 semester hours or 13.5 quarter hours. Courses in this area should provide knowledge of individual personality development and its normal and abnormal manifestations. The student should have relevant course work in human development across the life span which includes special issues that effect an individual's development (e.g. culture, gender, and human sexuality). Topic areas may include: human development, child/adolescent development, psychopathology, personality theory, human sexuality, etc. This material should be integrated with systems concepts. Test and measurement courses are not accepted toward this area.~~
 - ~~d. Professional Studies: At least 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours. Courses in this area are intended to contribute to the professional development of the therapist. Areas of study should include the therapist's legal responsibilities and liabilities, professional ethics relevant to marriage and family issues, professional values and socialization, and the role of the professional organization, licensure or certification legislation, independent practice and interpersonal cooperation. Religious ethics courses and moral theology courses are not accepted toward this area.~~
 - ~~e. Research: At least 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours. Courses in this area should assist students in understanding and performing research. Topic areas may include: research methodology, quantitative methods, and statistics. Individual personality and test and measurement courses are not accepted toward this area.~~
 - ~~f. Practicum: At least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours which includes 300 hours of supervised direct client contact with individuals, couples and families—of this 300 hours, no more than 150 hours may be with individuals.~~
- b. Related Field: A program of graduate education and training that meets the standards of accreditation adopted by COAMFTE.

7. Approved Mental Health Practice Program means an approved educational program consisting of a master's or doctoral degree, with the focus being primarily therapeutic mental health, from an institution of higher education approved by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or its successor, or approved as equivalent to a U.S. degree by a foreign educational credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) and any other documentation the board deems necessary; and must meet either subsection 4 item a or 2b as follows:

2.a. Accredited Programs: The program must be accredited by one of the following accrediting agencies ~~(a program in candidacy does not meet this section):~~

a.(1) —Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE);

- ~~b.(2)~~ —Council for Accreditation of Counseling and ~~related~~Related Educational Programs (CACREP); ~~or~~
~~e.(3)~~ —Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); ~~or~~and
a. American Psychological Association (APA).

~~_____~~ The program must also include a practicum or internship as follows:—

- ~~_____~~ a. ~~For individuals who completed. If the practicum/ or internship before September 1, 1995, the practicum/internship must have been from an approved educational program. b. For individuals whowas completed the practicum/internship after September 1, 1995, the practicum/internshipit must have included a minimum of 300 clock hours of direct client contact of which 150 clock hours must be face-to-face in a work setting, under the supervision of a qualified supervisor as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 62. Any artificial situation where a person presents a problem, such as role playing, is not acceptable; or~~

- 2.b. Other Programs: If the program is not accredited by one of the agencies identified in section 4 item 7a above, the Graduate course work, program must have an emphasis on the provision of mental health practice, and include coursework in each of the following:

- (1) Been at least 54 semester hours (at least 60 semester hours effective July 1, 2013);

- 4.(2) Been from an institution of higher education approved by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), its successor, or approved as equivalent to a U.S. degree by a foreign educational credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) and any other documentation the board deems necessary;

- (3) Had a mental health focused supervised practicum or internship:

- (1) ~~If an applicant completed the practicum/internship before September 1, 1995, the practicum/internship must have been from an approved educational program.~~

If an applicant completed the practicum/internship after September 1, 1995, the practicum/internship must have included a minimum of 300 clock hours of direct client contact ~~of which 150 clock hours must be face-to-face in a work setting,~~ under the supervision of a qualified supervisor as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 62. Any artificial situation where a person presents a problem, such as role playing, is not acceptable.; and

- (4) Had an emphasis on the provision of mental health practice, and included the following 27 semester hours of coursework:

- (1)(a) Theories and Techniques: At least ~~6-9~~ 6-9 semester hours or ~~9~~ 12 quarter hours. ~~Courses~~Includes courses that cover therapeutic techniques and strategies for human behavioral

intervention. ~~This includes~~ Examples are: major contributions of the biological, behavioral, cognitive, and social sciences relevant to understanding assessment and treatment of the person and his/her environment with emphases on the social systems framework, personality theories and -development through the life cycle, and their application.

~~(2)~~(b) Professional Ethics: At least 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours. ~~The~~ Includes the application of ethical and legal issues to the practice. Examples are: family law, codes of ethics, boundaries, peer review, record keeping, confidentiality, informed consent, and duty to warn.

~~(3)~~(c) Assessment Techniques: At least 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours. Includes the process of collecting pertinent data about a client or client systems and their environment and appraising the data as a basis for making decisions regarding treatment and/or referral. Examples are: ability to make a clinical diagnostic impression, knowledge of psychopathology, and assessment of substance abuse and other addictions.

~~(4)~~(d) Human Growth and Development: At least ~~36~~ semester hours or ~~4.59~~ quarter hours. ~~The integration~~ Includes studies that provide an understanding of the psychological, sociological, nature and biological approaches within the life cycle. Examples are: awareness needs of culture, gender, or human sexuality individuals at all developmental levels. Examples are: theories of individual and family development and transitions across the life-span; theories of learning and personality development; human behavior (including an understanding of developmental crises, disability, exceptional behavior, addictive behavior, psychopathology, and situational and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal), personality theory, and learning theory. behavior; and strategies for facilitating optimum development over the life-span.

~~(5)~~(e) Research and Evaluation: At least 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours. ~~Includes such areas as~~ Examples are statistics or research design and development of research and demonstration proposals.

(f) ~~g.~~ Social and Cultural Diversity: At least 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours. Includes studies that provide an understanding of the cultural context of relationships, issues and trends in a multicultural and diverse society. Examples are: multicultural and pluralistic trends, including

characteristics and concerns between and within diverse groups nationally and internationally; attitudes, beliefs, understandings, and acculturative experiences, including specific experiential learning activities; individual, couple, family, group, and community strategies for working with diverse populations and ethnic groups; counselors' roles in social justice, advocacy and conflict resolution, cultural self-awareness, the nature of biases, prejudices, processes of intentional and unintentional oppression and discrimination, and other culturally supported behaviors that are detrimental to the growth of the human spirit, mind, or body; theories of multicultural counseling, theories of identity development, and multicultural competencies;

(5) Undergraduate Courses: Graduate programs accepting an undergraduate course(s) as meeting the course criteria in ~~subsection 2b~~172 NAC 94-002, item 7b(4) (a through 2ff) will be acceptable. The school must submit a notarized letter, on institutional letterhead, from an authorized person, i.e., the Department Chair of the program, stating the undergraduate course(s) was accepted to meet the educational requirement(s) of the master's degree.

(6) Programs less than 54 semester hours (at least 60 semester hours effective July 1, 2013): If the master's degree is less than 54 hours (60 hours on 7-1-13), additional hours can be attained outside of the program to equal 54 hours (60 hours on 7-1-13); these additional hours must be graduate hours and have a mental health focus.

8. Approved Professional Counseling Program means:

- a. 1.—CACREP Accredited: A program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP); or
- b. 2.—Regionally Non-CACREP Accredited: A ~~counseling~~ program from a regionally accredited higher educational ~~an~~ institution, which must include graduate course work in each of higher education approved by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), its successor, or approved as equivalent to a U.S. degree by a foreign educational credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) and any other documentation the board deems necessary as meeting the standards of accreditation adopted by CACREP.

the following:

- a. Counseling Theory: At least 3 semester hours of graduate coursework that cover therapeutic techniques and strategies human behavioral intervention which includes a study of basic theories;

- ~~principles and techniques of counseling and their application
professional counseling settings;~~
- b. ~~Supervised Counseling Practicum: Refers to supervised counseling
experience in a work/community based setting for a minimum of 3
semester hours academic credit as part of a master's program
component; and~~
- c. ~~Completion of at least 3 semester hours of graduate course work in 5
out of 8 of the following areas:~~
- ~~(1) Human Growth and Development: Includes studies that
provide a broad understanding of the nature and needs of
individuals at all developmental levels. Emphasis is placed on
biopsychosocial approaches. Also included are such areas as
human behavior (normal and abnormal), personality theory and
learning theory.~~
 - ~~(2) Social and Cultural Foundations: Includes studies of change,
ethnic groups, subcultures, changing roles of women, sexism,
urban and rural societies, population patterns, cultural morals,
use of leisure time and differing life patterns. Such disciplines
as the behavioral sciences, economics and political science are
involved.~~
 - ~~(3) The Helping Relationship: Includes philosophic bases of the
helping relationship; consultation theory, practice, and
application; and an emphasis on development of counselor and
client (or consultee) self-awareness.~~
 - ~~(4) Group Dynamics, Processing and Counseling: Includes theory
and types of groups, as well as descriptions of group practices,
methods, dynamics, and facilitative skills. This also includes
supervised practice.~~
 - ~~(5) Lifestyle and Career Development: Includes such areas as
vocational choice theory, relationship between career choice
and lifestyle, sources of occupational and educational
information, approaches to career decision making processes
and career exploration techniques.~~
 - ~~(6) Appraisal of Individuals: Includes the development of
framework for understanding the individual including methods
of data gathering and interpretation, individual and group
testing, case study approaches, and the study of individual
differences. Ethnic, cultural, and sex factors are also
considered.~~
 - ~~(7) Research and Evaluation: Includes such areas as statistics,
research design and development of research and
demonstration proposals. It includes understanding legislation
relating to the development of research, program development
and demonstration proposals, as well as the development of
program objectives.~~
 - ~~(8) Professional Orientation: Includes goals and objectives of
professional organizations, codes of ethics, legal considerations,
preparation, certification, licensing, and role identity of counselors
and other personal services specialists.~~

9. ~~An approved~~ Approved Social Work Program means an educational program as follows:
- a. ~~1.~~ 1.—Baccalaureate degree: Undergraduate social work education and training approved by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
 - b. ~~2.~~ 2.—Master's degree: Graduate social work education and training approved by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
 - c. ~~3.~~ 3.—Doctoral degree programs: Recognized by the Groups for Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE).
10. Assessment means the process of collecting pertinent data about client or client systems and their environment and appraising the data as a basis for making decisions regarding treatment and/or referral.
11. Associated Certificate means a certificate issued to provide for the use of the title certified social worker, certified master social worker, certified professional counselor, or certified marriage and family therapist.
12. Attest or /Attestation means that the individual declares that all statements on the application/~~petition~~ are true and complete.
13. BAC means blood alcohol content.
14. Board means the Board of Mental Health Practice.
15. Certificate means an authorization issued by the Department that gives a person the right to use a protected title that only a person who has met specific requirements may use.
16. Certified Marriage and Family Therapist (CMFT) means a person who is certified to practice marriage and family therapy pursuant to the Uniform ~~Licensing Law~~ Credentialing Act and who holds a current certificate issued by the Department.
- ~~16-17.~~ Certified Master Social Worker (CMSW) means a person who meets the standards established in subsection (1) of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1,319§ 38-2128 and who holds a current certificate issued by the Department.
- ~~17-18.~~ Certified Professional Counselor (CPC) means a person who is certified to practice professional counseling pursuant to the Uniform ~~Licensing Law~~ Credentialing Act and who holds a current certificate issued by the Department.
- ~~18-19.~~ Certified Social Worker (CSW) means a person who meets the standards established in subsection (2) of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1,319§ 38-2128 and who holds a current certificate issued by the Department.
- ~~19-20.~~ Client or Client System means ~~an individual, couple, family or group in a professional work setting. whoever is present in a session unless it is agreed otherwise and documented.~~

~~A consent for treatment must be obtained from each client, whether being treated individually or conjointly, regardless of the number of sessions s/he may attend.~~

Client/Patient or Client System means a recipient of mental health services within the context of a professional relationship and includes whoever is present in a session unless it is agreed otherwise and documented. In the case of individuals with legal guardians, including minors and incompetent adults, the legal guardian will also be considered a client or patient for decision-making purposes. A consent for treatment must be obtained from each client, whether being treated individually or conjointly, regardless of the number of sessions s/he may attend.

~~20-21. Code of Ethics/Ethical Standards means the actions or practices defined in 172 NAC 94-046015 'Unprofessional Conduct', as defined in these regulations.~~

~~Collateral Contact means interactions with individuals on behalf of a client, but not necessarily in the presence of the client, that support, reinforce or otherwise affect the treatment process. Supervision is not considered as collateral contact.~~

~~21-22. Completed Complete Application means an application with that contains all of the information requested, the signature of the applicant, on the application, with attestation to its truth and completeness, and that is submitted with the required fees and all required documentation submitted.~~

23. Confidential information means information protected as privileged under applicable law.

24. Consultation means a professional collaborative relationship between a licensed mental health practitioner and a consultant who is a licensed psychologist, a qualified physician or a licensed independent mental health practitioner in which:

- a. The consultant makes a diagnosis based on information supplied by the licensed mental health practitioner and any additional assessment deemed necessary by the consultant; and
- b. The consultant and the licensed mental health practitioner jointly develop a treatment plan which indicates the responsibility of each professional for implementing elements of the plan, updating the plan, and assessing the client's progress.

25. Continuing Competency means to ensure:

- a. 1. The maintenance by a credentialed person of knowledge and skills necessary to competently practice mental health, marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, and/or social work;
- b. 2. The utilization of new techniques based on scientific and clinical advances; and
- c. 3. The promotion of research to assure expansive and comprehensive services to the public. It is the competency required as a condition of licensure renewal, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.09§38-145.

Continuing Education is the method of continuing competency.

26. Continuing Education (CE) Hour or Credit is defined as follows:

- a. 1. Academic credit: May accumulate up to 30 hours of continuing education per biennial renewal period.
- (1) a. 1 semester hour of academic credit equals 15 continuing education credit hours. 1 semester hour credit audited equals 8 hours of continuing education;
- (2) b. 1 quarter hour of academic credit equals 10 continuing education credit hours. 1 quarter hour credit audited equals 5 hours of continuing education; and
- (3) c. 1 trimester hour of academic credit equals 14 continuing education credit hours. 1 trimester hour credit audited equals 7 hours of continuing education.
- b. Dissertations: May accumulate up to 30 hours of continuing education per biennial renewal period. 2. Dissertations may accumulate up to 32 hours of continuing education per biennial renewal period.
- c. 3. Teaching: Hours granted for teaching a college/university course are calculated as stated in ~~subsection 1~~ item a above; 30 of the 32 hours may be earned per biennial.
- d. 4. Home study programs may (including those transmitted through electronic means): May accumulate up to 20 hours of continuing education per biennial renewal period.
- ~~5. e. Publications may: May accumulate up to 20 hours of continuing education per biennial renewal period.~~
- ~~6. f. Educational/training videos may: May accumulate up to 10 hours of continuing education within a biennial renewal period.~~
- ~~7. g. Workshops/Programs: 60 minutes equals 1 continuing education credit.~~
- h. Workshop Presenters may: May receive credit for only the initial presentation during a renewal period. Credit will not be given for subsequent presentations of the same program/course.

~~Consultation means a professional collaborative relationship between a licensed mental health practitioner and a consultant who is a licensed psychologist or a qualified physician in which:~~

- ~~1. The consultant makes a diagnosis based on information supplied by the licensed mental health practitioner and any additional assessment deemed necessary by the consultant; and~~
- ~~2. The consultant and the licensed mental health practitioner jointly develop a treatment plan which indicates the responsibility of each professional for~~

implementing elements of the plan, updating the plan, and assessing the client's progress.

~~28.27. Department means the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure of the State of Nebraska~~
Conviction means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere or non vult contendere made to a formal criminal charge, or a judicial finding of guilt irrespective of the pronouncement of judgment or the suspension thereof, and includes instances in which the imposition or the execution of sentence is suspended following a judicial finding of guilt and the defendant is placed on probation.

~~28.~~ Counseling means a professional relationship in which an independent mental health practitioner or mental health practitioner assists another (client) to understand, cope with, solve, and/or prevent problems, such as, but not limited to areas of education, vocation, and/or interpersonal relationships in the social environment.

~~29.~~ Credential means a license or certificate. Direct Client Contact means:

- ~~1.~~ During a practicum direct client contact is contact between the practicum student and a client system, including collateral contacts, while providing mental health services. Supervisory sessions involving only the practicum student and supervisor will not be considered as direct client contact.
- ~~2.~~ During completion of the 3,000 hours of supervised experience to fulfill postgraduate requirements for licensure direct client contact is face-to-face contact between a client system and a provisionally licensed mental health practitioner (PLMHP) while providing mental health services. Supervisory sessions involving only the PLMHP and supervisor will not be considered as direct client contact.

~~Director~~ Director of Regulation and Licensure or the Chief Medical Officer if one has been appointed pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-3201, for performance of the duties set out in that statute.

~~30.~~ Department means the Division means the Credentialing Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, ~~Regulation and Licensure of the State of Nebraska.~~

~~31.~~ Ethical Standards means the current Ethical Standards of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), the National Association of State Social Workers (NASW), and the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) as the Code of Professional Conduct for Mental Health Practice in Nebraska. A practitioner is required to comply with the ethical regulations of the National Association under which the practitioner holds an associated certificate. If the practitioner holds only the license as a mental health practitioner, s/he is not required to comply with the AAMFT, NASW, or the NBCC ethical standards. Copies of the Ethical Standards are available from the appropriate Association.
Dependence means a maladaptive pattern of alcohol or substance use, leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as manifested by three or more of the following occurring at any time in the same 12-month period:

a. Tolerance as defined by either of the following:

- (1) A need for markedly increased amounts of alcohol or the substance to achieve intoxication or desired effect; or
 - (2) A markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of alcohol or the substance;
 - b. Withdrawal as manifested by either of the following:
 - (1) The characteristic withdrawal syndrome for alcohol or the substance as referred to in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association; or
 - (2) Alcohol or the same substance or a closely related substance is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms;
 - c. Alcohol or the substance is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended;
 - d. A persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control alcohol or substance use;
 - e. A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain alcohol or the substance, to use alcohol or the substance; or to recover from the effects of use of alcohol or the substance;
 - f. Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of alcohol or substance use; or
 - g. Alcohol or substance use continues despite knowledge of having had a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that was likely to have been caused or exacerbated by alcohol or the substance.
- 32. Direct Client Contact means contact between the practicum student or provisional licensed mental health practitioner and a client system while providing mental health services.
 - a. Examples of activities not considered direct client contact include:
 - (1) Writing progress notes;
 - (2) Supervisory meetings;
 - (3) Research;
 - (4) Video observation;
 - (5) CE workshops or other workshops;
 - (6) Telephone supervision;
 - (7) Contact with the school or judicial system;
 - (8) Formal case staffings;
 - (9) Child protective services; or
 - (10) Similar activities.
- 33. Director means the Director of Public Health of the Division of Public Health or his/her designee.
- 34. Inactive Certification means the voluntary termination of the right or privilege to a certification which the certificate holder has voluntarily placed on inactive status and by which action has terminated the right to practice social work, professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy. The certificate holder retains the right or privilege to represent himself or herself as having an inactive certificate.
- 35. Inactive License means the voluntary termination of the right or privilege to provide a license

which the license holder has voluntarily placed on inactive status and by which action has terminated the right to practice mental health services. The licensee retains the right or privilege to represent himself or herself as having an inactive license.

36. Independent Mental Health Practice means the provision of treatment, assessment, psychotherapy, counseling, or equivalent activities to individuals, couples, families, or groups for behavioral, cognitive, social, mental, or emotional disorders, including interpersonal or personal situations.

Independent mental health practice includes diagnosing major mental illness or disorder, using psychotherapy with individuals suspected of having major mental or emotional disorders, or using psychotherapy to treat the concomitants of organic illness, with or without consultation with a qualified physician or licensed psychologist.

Independent mental health practice does not include the practice of psychology or medicine, prescribing drugs or electroconvulsive therapy, treating physical disease, injury, or deformity, or measuring personality or intelligence for the purpose of diagnosis or treatment planning.

37. Internship or Practicum means:

- 4a. For mental health practice it is the experience that an intern gained in a program of higher education accredited by the accrediting agency for the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or its successor. Internships or practicums completed after September 1, 1995, must include a minimum of 300 clock hours of direct client contact under the supervision of: or approved as equivalent to a U.S. degree by a foreign educational credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) and any other documentation the board deems necessary.

~~(1)a. Hours earned Before September 1, 1994: A qualified physician, a licensed clinical psychologist, or a certified master social worker, certified professional counselor, or marriage and family therapist qualified for certification on September 1, 1994, for any hours completed before September 1, 1994; or~~

~~(2)(1) b. Hours earned After September 1, 1994: A Internships or practicums completed after September 1, 1995, must include a minimum of 300 clock hours of direct client contact under the supervision of a qualified physician, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent mental health practitioner, or a licensed mental health practitioner for any hours completed after September 1, 1994, or an equivalent license in another jurisdiction;~~

- b. 2. For marriage and family therapy, it is defined in 172 NAC 94-002-, item 6 "Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Program"; and

c. ~~3.~~ For professional counseling, it is defined in 172 NAC 94-002-, item 8 "Approved Professional Counseling Program".

d. For master social work, it is defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 9.
~~Lapsed Certificate means the voluntary termination of the right or privilege to represent oneself as a certified person and to practice social work, professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy.~~
~~Lapsed License means the voluntary termination of the right or privilege to represent oneself as a licensed person and to provide mental health services.~~

38. License means an authorization issued by the Department to an individual to engage in a profession or to a business to provide services which would otherwise be unlawful in this state in the absence of such authorization.

39. Licensed means an individual who holds a current license to practice.

40. Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) means a person who is licensed as a mental health practitioner or an independent mental health practitioner and is certified as a master social worker; s/he may use the title licensed clinical social worker.

41. Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner (LMHPLIMHP) means a person who holds himself/herself out as a person qualified to engage in independent mental health practice or a person who offers or renders independent mental health practice services.

1. ~~a.~~ A person who is licensed as a an independent mental health practitioner and certified as a master social worker may use the title Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LCSWLICSW).

2b. A person who is licensed as an independent mental health practitioner and certified as a professional counselor may use the title Licensed Independent Professional Counselor (LIPC).

c. A person who is licensed as an independent mental health practitioner and certified as a marriage and family therapist may use the title Licensed Independent Marriage and Family Therapist (LIMFT).

42. Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP) means a person who holds him/herself out as a person qualified to engage in mental health practice or a person who offers or renders mental health practice services and is licensed as a mental health practitioner.

a. A person who is licensed as a mental health practitioner and certified as a master social worker may use the title Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

b. A person who is licensed as a mental health practitioner and certified as a professional counselor may use the title Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

- 3c. A person who is licensed as a mental health practitioner and certified as a marriage and family therapist may use the title Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT).
43. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) is a person who is licensed as a mental health practitioner or an independent mental health practitioner and is certified as a marriage and family therapist; s/he may use the title licensed marriage and family therapist.
44. Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) is a person who is licensed as a mental health practitioner or an independent mental health practitioner and is certified as a professional counselor; s/he may use the title licensed professional counselor.
45. Major Mental Disorder means any mental and emotional disorder in which the following behaviors occur or might reasonably be expected to occur regardless of specific diagnoses or the nature of the presenting complaint:
- 4a. Persistent and/or severe suicidal or homicidal thinking and/or behaviors;
 - 2b. Persistent and/or severe behaviors injurious to self and/or others;
 - 3c. Psychotic symptoms which include delusions, hallucinations, or formal thought disorders; or
 - 4d. Physical complaints or signs suggestive of deterioration or anomaly in physiological, psychophysiological or neuropsychological functioning.

The following diagnoses as referenced in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Classification of Diseases are major mental disorders:

- a. Schizophrenia;
- b. Major depressive disorder;
- c. Bipolar disorder;
- d. Delusional disorder;
- e. Psychotic disorder;
- f. Panic disorder; and
- g. Obsessive compulsive disorder.

Certain diagnoses which are referenced in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Classification of Diseases, such as dissociative disorders, post traumatic stress disorder, dissociative identity disorder, severe eating disorder, and borderline personality disorder, are more likely than others to demonstrate one or more of the above behavioral criteria, although these diagnoses alone do not constitute a major mental disorder.

Persons who have exhibited behaviors consistent with a major mental disorder in the past have an increased probability of exhibiting such behaviors in the future, especially under stress.

46. Marriage and Family Therapy means the assessment and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within the context of marriage and family systems through the professional application of psychotherapeutic and

family systems theories and techniques in the delivery of services to individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of treating such disorders.

47. Mental Health means the relative state of emotional well-being, freedom from incapacitating conflicts, and the consistent ability to make and carry out rational decisions and cope with environmental stresses and internal pressures.

48. Mental Health Focus or Therapeutic Mental Health means an educational process consisting of mental health theories, techniques, practices, and methods necessary to prepare a mental health professional to identify, assess, and intervene with a client population for the primary purposes of providing or resulting in the clients optimal mental health.

49. Mental Illness means impaired psychosocial or cognitive functioning due to disturbances in any one or more of the following processes: biological, chemical, physiological, genetic, psychological, social, or environmental. Mental illness is extremely variable in duration, severity, and prognosis, depending on the specific type of affliction.

50. Mental Health Practice means the provision of treatment, assessment, psychotherapy, counseling, or equivalent activities to individuals, couples, families, or groups for behavioral, cognitive, social, mental, or emotional disorders, including interpersonal or personal situations; ~~and includes the initial assessment of organic mental or emotional disorders for the purpose of referral or consultation.~~

4. Mental health practice does not include:

- a. The practice of psychology or medicine;
- b. Prescribing drugs or electroconvulsive therapy;
- c. Treating physical disease, injury, or deformity;
- d. Diagnosing major mental illness or disorder except in consultation with a qualified physician ~~or licensed clinical~~, a psychologist licensed to engage in the practice of psychology as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-3111, or a licensed independent mental health practitioner;
- e. Measuring personality or intelligence for the purpose of diagnosis or treatment planning;
- f. Using psychotherapy with individuals suspected of having major mental or emotional disorders except in consultation with a qualified physician ~~or a licensed clinical psychologist, or a licensed independent mental health practitioner;~~ or
- g. Using psychotherapy to treat the concomitants of organic illness except in consultation with a qualified physician or licensed ~~clinical~~ psychologist.

Mental health practice includes the initial assessment of organic mental or emotional disorders for the purpose of referral or consultation.

Nothing in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§38-2114, 38-2118, and 38-2119 is deemed to constitute authorization to engage in activities beyond those described in this section. Persons certified under the Mental Health Practice Act but not licensed under Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-2122 must not engage in mental health practice.

51. Mental Health Practice Examination means:

- ~~1a.~~ The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Clinical examination (~~previously referred to as the Level C category~~);
- ~~2b.~~ The Association of Marital and the Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) Examination;
- ~~3c.~~ The National Board of Certified Counselor's National Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCMHCE);
- ~~4.~~ ~~The Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP);~~ or
- ~~5~~ d. An equivalent examination as determined by the Board.

An applicant who by reason of educational background is eligible for certification as a Certified Master Social Worker, a Certified Professional Counselor, or a Certified Marriage and Family Therapist must take and pass the appropriate certification examination; those not eligible for certification in an associated field must take and pass the NBCC/NCE, or NBCC/NCMHCE, or other examination as determined by the Board to be equivalent.

52. Mental Health Program means an educational program in a field such as, but not limited to, social work, professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, human development, psychology, or family relations, the content of which contains an emphasis on therapeutic mental health and course work in psychotherapy and the assessment of mental disorders.

53. Military service means full-time duty in the active military service of the United States or a National Guard call to active service for more than 30 consecutive days, or active service as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Military service may also include any period during which a service member is absent from duty on account of sickness, wounds, leave, or other lawful cause. (From the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2007.)

54. NAC means the Nebraska Administrative Code, the system for classifying State agency rules and regulations. These regulations are 172 NAC 94.

55. Official Transcript means issued by and under the original seal of the educational institution.

56. Pattern of incompetent or negligent conduct means a continued course of incompetent or negligent conduct in performing the duties of the profession.

57. Professional Counseling means the assessment and treatment of mental and emotional disorders within the context of professional counseling theory and practice of individuals, couples, families, or groups for remuneration and includes, but is not limited to:

- 4a. Assisting individuals or groups through the counseling relationship to develop understanding, define goals, plan action, and change behavior with the goal of reflecting interests, abilities, aptitudes, and needs as they are related to personal and social concerns, educational progress, and occupations;
- 2b. Appraisal activities which means selecting, administering, scoring, and interpreting instruments designed to assess a person's aptitudes, attitudes, abilities, achievements, interests, and personal characteristics, except that nothing in this subdivision authorizes a certified professional counselor to engage in the practice of clinical psychology as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-1,222§38-3111;
- 3c. Referral activities which evaluate data to identify which persons or groups may better be served by other specialists;
- 4d. Research activities, which means reporting, designing, conducting, or consulting on research in counseling with human subjects;
- 5e. Therapeutic, vocational, or personal rehabilitation in relationship to adapting to physical, emotional, or intellectual disability; and
- 6 f. Consulting on any activity listed in this section.
58. Provisionally Certified Master Social Worker means a person who needs to obtain the required three thousand hours of supervised experience in social work as specified in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1,319§ 38-2128 to qualify for certification as a master social worker must obtain a provisional certification as a master social worker.
59. Provisionally Licensed Mental Health Practitioner means a person who needs to obtain the required three thousand hours of supervised experience in mental health practice as specified in Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-1,314§38-2122 to qualify for a mental health practitioner license and who must obtain a provisional mental health practitioner license.
60. Psychotherapy means a specialized formal interaction between a mental health practitioner and a client in which a therapeutic relationship is established to help to resolve symptoms of mental disorder, psychosocial stress, relationship problems and difficulties in coping in the social environment. Some specific types of psychotherapy may include, but are not limited to, psychoanalysis, family therapy, group psychotherapy, supportive treatment, gestalt therapy, experiential therapy, primal therapy, psychosocial therapy, psychodrama, behavioral therapy, clinical hypnosis, addiction therapy, and cognitive therapy.
61. Qualified Physician means an individual with a current license to practice medicine and surgery and has specialized training in mental health treatment ~~or is a Board Certified Psychiatrist.~~ Examples of this training are Board Certification in Psychiatry or a family practice residency or fellowship training in behavioral medicine.
62. Qualified Supervisor means an individual who assumes the responsibility of supervision ~~during the 3,000 hours of post-master's experience.~~ Supervisors must insure that their

judgment is not impaired based on their personal relationship with the supervisee and that no exploitation of the supervisee occurs.

~~4a.~~ For marriage and family therapy certification—Marriage and Family Therapy Certification the supervisor must be a licensed independent mental health practitioner, licensed mental health practitioner, licensed psychologist, or licensed physician who:

(1) ~~_____~~ ~~a.~~ ~~_____~~ Holds a current active license;

(2) ~~_____~~ ~~b.~~ ~~_____~~ Has not had his/her license disciplined, limited, suspended, or placed on probation during the ~~4 year~~5 years immediately preceding the supervisee's application for a provisional license. At least 1 year must have elapsed following completion of any disciplinary terms and conditions. If any of these actions are taken by the Department during the supervisory agreement period, the supervisor must terminate the supervision immediately and notify the Department; and

(3) ~~_____~~ ~~c.~~ ~~_____~~ Holds an "approved supervisor's" designation certificate from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; ~~or~~

~~d.~~ ~~_____~~ OR

Provides evidence of training in clinical supervision equivalent to 15 hours.— Evidence must be shown through academic course work, continuing education, or consultation with a qualified marriage and family therapy supervisor, and has 3 years of experience supervising the provision of marriage and family therapy services.

~~2.~~ ~~For mental health practice licensure a qualified physician, a licensed psychologist, a licensed mental health practitioner, or a similar license/certification in another jurisdiction, who: b. For Master Social Work Certification the supervisor must be a certified master social worker, who:~~

(1) ~~_____~~ ~~a.~~ ~~_____~~ Holds a current active ~~license~~certificate; and

(2) ~~_____~~ ~~b.~~ ~~_____~~ Has not had his/her license disciplined, limited, suspended, or placed on probation during the ~~4 year~~5 years immediately preceding the supervisee's application for a provisional license. At least 1 year must have elapsed following completion of any disciplinary terms and conditions. If any of these actions are taken by the Department during the supervisory agreement period, the supervisor must terminate the supervision immediately and notify the Department.

~~c.~~ For Independent Mental Health Practice Licensure, the supervisor must be a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent mental health practitioner, or a similar license/certification in another jurisdiction, who:

(1) Holds a current active license; and

(2) Has not had his/her license disciplined, limited, suspended, or placed on probation during the 5 years immediately preceding the supervisee's application for a provisional license. At least 1 year must have elapsed following completion of any disciplinary terms and conditions. If any of these actions are taken by the Department during the supervisory agreement period, the supervisor must terminate the supervision immediately and notify the Department.

~~3. For master social work certification a certified master social worker, who:~~
d. For Mental Health Practice Licensure the supervisor must be a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent mental health practitioner, a licensed mental health practitioner, or a similar license or certification in another jurisdiction, who:

(1) ~~a. Holds a current active certificate~~license; and

(2) ~~b. Has not had no disciplinary action~~his/her license disciplined, limited, suspended, or placed on probation during the 5 years immediately preceding the application for a provisional certificate or license. At least 1 year must have elapsed following completion of any disciplinary terms and conditions. If any of these actions are taken by the Department during the supervisionsupervisory agreement period. If discipline occurs, the supervisor must terminate the supervision immediately and notify the Department.

63. Served in the Regular Armed Forces has the same meaning as 'military service' in these regulations.

64. Social Work Practice or the Practice of Social Work means the professional activity of helping individuals, groups, and families or larger systems such as organizations and communities to improve, restore, or enhance their capacities for personal and social functioning and the professional application of social work values, knowledge, principles, and methods in the following areas of practice:

1a. Information, resource identification and development, and/or referral services;

2b. Preparation and evaluation of psychosocial assessments and development of social work service plans;

3c. Case management, coordination, and monitoring of social work service plans in the areas of personal, social, or economic resources, conditions, or problems;

4d. Development, implementation, evaluation, and/or administration of social work programs and policies;

5.e. Supportive contacts to assist individuals and groups with personal adjustment to crisis, transition, economic changes, or a personal or family member's health condition, especially in the area of services given in hospitals,

health clinics, home health agencies, schools, shelters for the homeless, shelters for the urgent care of victims of sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, or domestic violence, nursing homes, and correctional facilities;

a. ~~Nothing in this section prevents charitable and religious organizations; the clergy; governmental agencies; hospitals; health clinics; home health agencies; schools; shelters for the homeless; shelters for the urgent care of victims of sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, or domestic violence; nursing homes; or correctional facilities from providing supportive contacts to assist individuals and groups with adjustment to crisis, transition, economic change, or personal or a family member's health condition if such persons or organizations do not represent himself/herself to be social workers or provides mental health services;~~

6f. Social casework for the prevention of psychosocial dysfunction, disability, or impairment; and

7g. Social work research, consultation, and education.

8. ~~—~~

Social work practice does not include:

~~_____ a. The measuring and testing of personality or intelligence;~~

~~_____ b. Accepting fees or compensation for the treatment of disease, injury, or deformity of persons by drugs, surgery, or any manual or mechanical treatment whatsoever;~~

~~_____ c. Prescribing drugs or electroconvulsive therapy; and~~

~~_____ d. Treating organic diseases or major psychiatric diseases, except by an individual seeking to fulfill postgraduate requirements for licensure under the supervision of a licensed professional as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1,312.~~

9. ~~An individual~~ _____

A certified master social worker who practices within the confines of this section shall is not be required to be licensed as a mental health practitioner or certified as a social worker as long as s/he does not represent himself/herself as a mental health practitioner or as a social worker.

65. Supervised Experience/Supervision means the successful completion of 3,000 hours of supervised experience obtained during the period beginning after receipt of the master's degree and until the candidate is granted the desired license and/or certification. To count toward the required number of hours of supervised experience, all direct and in-direct client contact hours must take place while the applicant is being supervised by a supervisor who has been officially registered with the department as being the applicant's supervisor of record, and during the 5 years immediately preceding the application for licensure and/or certification. The Licensed Independent Mental Health Practice (LIMHP), Licensed Mental

Health Practice (LMHP) and Certified Marriage and Family Therapist (CMFT) supervised experience must:

- a. ~~1.~~ 4.—Focus on raw data from the applicant's clinical work which is made directly available to the supervisor through such means as written clinical materials, direct observation, ~~and or~~ video and audio recordings;
- b. ~~2.~~ 2.—Include a process which is distinguishable from personal psychotherapy, consultation or didactic instruction; and
- c. ~~3.~~ 3.—Consist of ~~at least 1,500 hours of direct client contact~~ experience in a setting where mental health services are being offered during which:
 - (1) ~~a.~~ a.—The supervisee apprises the supervisor of the diagnosis and treatment of clients;
 - (2) ~~b.~~ b.—The clients' cases are discussed;
 - (3) ~~c.~~ c.—Ethical principles of the profession are discussed;
 - (4) ~~d.~~ d.—The supervisor provides the supervisee with oversight and guidance ~~in treating and dealing with~~ the provision of service to clients; ~~and~~
 - e. ~~The supervisor evaluates the supervisee's performance.~~
- (5) ~~Supervision for~~ The supervisor must periodically evaluate the therapeutic process and determine if treatment goals are being met and if changes in direction or emphasis are needed; and
- (6) The supervisor can not supervise more than 6 persons at 1 face-to-face supervisory meeting. Face to face supervision may include interactive visual imaging assisted communication

Provisionally Licensed Mental Health Practitioners (PLMHP) applicants applying for a LIMHP who do not attain the LMHP must also meet the supervision requirements for a LMHP.

Mental Health Practice supervision must also include:

- a. At least 3,000 hours of supervised experience obtained during a period of up to 5 years after receiving initial licensure (LMHP). All of the experience during this pre-licensure period must be supervised- not only the required 3,000 hours;
- b. A minimum of 1,500 hours of direct client contact in a setting where mental health services are being offered;
- c. Supervised non-direct experience, which includes, but is not limited to, review of client records, case conferences, direct observation, or video observation; and
- d. Evaluative face-to-face contact for a minimum of 1 hour per week between the supervisee and supervisor.

Independent Mental Health Practice supervision must also include:

- a. A review of the diagnostic criteria for clients diagnosed with major mental disorders; and
- b. Evaluative face-to-face contact with a minimum cumulative ratio of 2 hours of face-to-face contact between the supervisee and a qualified supervisor per 15 hours of contact with clients diagnosed with major mental disorders, no more than 45 hours may be accumulated without supervision.

Those LMHP's seeking licensure as LIMHPs must receive supervision of all direct client contact where the LMHP is providing services to clients (people) with major mental disorders. This supervision must last until the person receives the license qualifying him/her for independent practice- not just during the period of time in which the specified number of hours is obtained.

Marriage and Family Therapy Certification supervision must also include:

- a. 1.—At least 3,000 hours of supervised experience;
- b. A minimum of 1,500 hours of direct client contact with a minimum cumulative ratio of 2 hours of face-to-face contact between the supervisee and a qualified supervisor per 15 hours of the supervisee's contact with clients, no more than 45 hours may be accumulated without supervision; and
 2. ~~The supervisor can not supervise more than 6 persons at 1 face-to-face supervisory setting; and~~
 3. ~~Not more than 1,500 hours of supervised experience, which includes, but is not limited to, review of client records, case conferences, direct observation, and video observation.~~

Supervision for Mental Health Practice must also include:

1. ~~A minimum of 1,500 hours of direct client contact in a setting where mental health services are being offered.~~
- c. 2.— No more than 1,500 hours of Supervised non-direct service experience, which includes, but is not limited to, review of client records, case conferences, direct observation, and or video observation.
3. ~~Evaluative face-to-face contact for a minimum of 1 hour per week between the supervisee and supervisor.~~

Supervision for Master Social Work Certification supervision, when conducted within the confines of 172 NAC 94-002, item 64 (definition of social work), is must include:

- a. 1.—At least 3,000 hours of supervised experience;
- b. The written records of services or procedures are examined and evaluative interviews are conducted by a certified master social worker; and
- c. 2.———Ethical principles of the profession are discussed; and
- d. Evaluative face-to-face contact for a minimum of 1 hour per week between the supervisee and supervisor.

When a person wishes to apply for a MHP license and MSW certificate, supervision must be provided under a licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW) or licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and in accordance with this section-.

66. Therapeutic Mental Health or Mental Health Focus means an educational process consisting of mental health theories, techniques, practices, and methods necessary to prepare a mental health professional to identify, assess, and intervene with a client population for the primary purposes of providing or resulting in the client's optimal mental health.

~~Therapeutic Mental Health means systematic processes and activities used by mental health professionals and designed to remedy, cure, or abate mental health concerns, disabilities, or problems.~~

~~Verified means sworn to before a Notary Public.~~

94-003 PROVISIONAL LICENSURE AS A MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER (PLMHP): A person who needs to obtain the required 3,000 hours of supervised experience in mental health practice in Nebraska, as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 65, in order to qualify for a mental health practitioner license (LMHP) and/or independent mental health practitioner license (LIMHP) must obtain a provisional mental health practitioner license to practice and before beginning his/her supervised experience. Any hours earned in Nebraska prior to the receipt of the provisional license may not be considered for a license as a mental health practitioner or independent mental health practitioner.

The criteria for the issuance of a provisional license and the documentation required by the Department and the Board are set forth below and ONLY apply to individuals earning hours in Nebraska.

94-003.01 Qualifications: To receive a credential to practice as a provisional mental health practitioner, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;
2. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
3. Education: Has graduated with a masters' or doctoral degree as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 7; and
4. Supervisor: Have a supervisor who meets the definition of a qualified supervised as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 62.

94-003.02 Application: To apply for a credential to practice as a provisional mental health practitioner, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete

application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

1. Written Application:

a. Personal Information:

- (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
- (2) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
- (3) Place of birth (city and state or country if not born in the United States);
- (4) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
- (5) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
 - (b) Alien Registration Number ("A#"); or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) Number;Certain applicants may have both a SSN and A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both;
- (6) The applicant's telephone number including area code (optional);
- (7) The applicant's e-mail address (optional);
- (8) The applicant's fax number (optional); and
- (9) Citizenship: The applicant must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (a) A citizen of the United States;
 - (b) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (c) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

b. Practice Before Application: The applicant must state:

- (1) That s/he has not practiced mental health in Nebraska before submitting the application; or
- (2) If s/he has practiced mental health in Nebraska before submitting the application, the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska before submitting the application for a credential and name and location of practice; and

c. Attestation: The applicant must attest that:

- (1) S/he has read the application or has had the application read to him/her;
- (2) All statements on the application are true and complete;
- (3) S/he is of good character;

- (4) S/he has not committed any act that would be grounds for denial under 172 NAC 94-015 or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such act(s); and
- (5) For the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114, s/he is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documentation upon request.

2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:

a. Evidence of age, such as:

- (1) Driver's license;
- (2) Birth certificate;
- (3) Marriage license that provides date of birth;
- (4) Transcript that provides date of birth;
- (5) U.S. State identification card;
- (6) Military identification; or
- (7) Other similar documentation;

b. Evidence of good character, including:

- (1) Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed;

The applicant must have the licensing agency submit to the Department a certification of his/her credential.

- (2) Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary actions taken against the applicant's credential, and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;
- (3) Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take a credentialing examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial; and
- (4) Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, the applicant must submit to the Department:
 - (a) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
 - (b) A copy of the court record, which includes charges

- and disposition;
- (c) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the conviction;
 - (d) His/her BAC level (if the conviction was alcohol related);
 - (e) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
 - (f) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
 - (g) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department;
- c. Evidence that the applicant is:
- (1) A citizen;
 - (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
- d. Evidence of citizenship, lawful permanent residence, lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:
- (1) A U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired);
 - (2) A birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal;
 - (3) An American Indian Card (I-872);
 - (4) A Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);
 - (5) A Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561);
 - (6) Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350);
 - (7) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (FS-240);
 - (8) Certification of Birth Abroad (FS-545 or DS-1350);
 - (9) A United States Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179);
 - (10) A Northern Mariana Card (I-873);
 - (11) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (12) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (13) A document showing an alien Registration Number ("A#")

- with visa status; or
(14) A form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
- e. Evidence of Supervisor Information, including:
(1) Name of Supervisor;
(2) Address of Supervisor; and
(3) Supervisor's License Number and Telephone Number;
- f. Evidence of Supervision which includes having arranged for supervision with a qualified supervisor in Nebraska. The supervisor must attest to the supervision on a form provided by the Department or on an alternate format which includes the same information;
- g. Documentation of education/practicum including:
(1) Name and date of diploma/degree awarded;
(2) Name of school, college, university that awarded the diploma/degree;
(3) An official transcript showing proof of the required degree, coursework, and documentation of completion of a practicum/internship.
(a) Applicants who have completed practicums or internships after September 1, 1995, must document at least 300 clock hours of direct client contact under a qualified supervisor; and
(4) Evidence of meeting the education qualification set out in 172 NAC 94-002, item 7.
(a) If the applicant graduated from a program not accredited by CACREP, COAMFTE, or CSWE, the applicant must submit evidence of coursework (i.e., course catalogue, syllabi, etc. and indication of the course name and course number) as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 7 as follows:
i. Theories and Techniques
ii. Professional Ethics
iii. Assessment Techniques
iv. Human Growth and Development
v. Research and Evaluation; and
vi. Social and Cultural Diversity.
(b) If the applicant will be earning hours towards a LIMHP and graduated from a program that s/he believes is equivalent to an accredited program, s/he must submit evidence of meeting the coursework required by the accrediting agency (CACREP, COAMFTE, or CSWE). Such evidence must include an official course descriptions (i.e., course catalogue, syllabi, etc), the course name and course number for each required course work area and evidence of

completing the required number of
practicum/internship hours; and

3. Fee: The applicant must submit the required license fee along with the application and all required documentation.
 - a. Prorated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date and the initial credentialing fee is \$25 or more, the Department will collect \$25 or one-fourth of the initial credentialing fee, whichever is greater, for the initial credential, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

94-003.03 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for credentialing.

94-003.04 Denial of Initial Credential: If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. If the applicant is found to have committed any act which would be grounds for denial of a credential as listed in 172 NAC 94-015, the Department may deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

94-003.05 Withdrawn Applications: An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department prior to administration of the examination will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

94-003.06 Practice Prior to Credential: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 94-018 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

94-003.07 Confidentiality: Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

94-003.08 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

94-003.09 Non-English Documents: Any documents written in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

94-003.10 Expiration of a Provisional License: A provisional license expires upon the following conditions:

1. Termination of supervision agreement or change in supervisor; or
2. Receipt of the licensure as an independent mental health practitioner or mental health practitioner or 5 years after the date of issuance, whichever comes first.

94-003.11 Second Provisional License: An individual who does not complete the hours required for licensure within the specified 5 year period may re-apply one time for another provisional license.

94-003.12 Client Notification: An individual who holds a provisional license must inform all clients that s/he holds a provisional license and is practicing mental health under supervision and must identify the supervisor. Failure to make such a disclosure is a ground for discipline as set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-2139.

94-003.13 Change of Supervisor: An individual who changes his/her supervisor or adds a new supervisor must submit an application within 30 days following the change. The application may be submitted on a form provided by the Department or on an alternate format which includes all information as specified in 172 NAC 94-003.01 and 94-003.02. Failure to notify the department of a change of supervisor will invalidate any hours of direct client contact gained during the applicable period of time.

94-003.14 Termination of Supervision: If a supervisor or provisional licensee terminates supervision, s/he must notify the Department in writing immediately of the date of termination. The Department will record said termination date in the record.

94-004 INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER (LIMHP) LICENSE REQUIREMENTS: No person may represent him/herself as an independent mental health practitioner unless licensed and no person may engage in the independent practice of mental health unless s/he is licensed, except individuals who meet Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-2121 and 172 NAC 94-006.

Independent mental health practice includes diagnosing major mental illness or disorder, using psychotherapy with individuals suspected of having major mental or emotional disorders, or using psychotherapy to treat the concomitants of organic illness, with or without consultation with a qualified physician or licensed psychologist.

94-004.01 Qualifications: To receive a credential to practice as an independent mental health practitioner, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;
2. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

3. Licensure: Is licensed as a provisional mental health practitioner or a licensed mental health practitioner;

4. Education and Experience: The applicant must meet either a or b as follows:

a. Education: Has graduated with a masters' or doctoral degree from an educational program which is accredited, at the time of graduation or within 4 years after graduation, by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), or the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE);

OR

Graduated with a masters' or doctoral degree from an educational program deemed by the Board to be equivalent in didactic content and supervised clinical experience to an accredited program;

AND

Experience: Has 3,000 hours of experience obtained in a period of not less than 2 nor more than 5 years and supervised by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed independent mental health practitioner, one-half (1,500) of which is comprised of experience with clients diagnosed under the major mental illness or disorder category;

Reciprocity: An applicant who is fully licensed (not provisional) in another state and has practiced for at least 2-5 years is deemed to have met the specified experience set out in this section, providing his/her authority to practice in another state includes independent mental health practice.

OR

b. Education: Has graduated from an educational program which is not accredited by or deemed equivalent to CACREP, COAMFTE, or CSWE;

AND

Experience: Has 7,000 hours of experience obtained in a period of not less than 10 years and supervised by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed independent mental health practitioner, one-half (3,500) of which is comprised of experience with clients diagnosed under the major mental illness or disorder category.

Reciprocity: An applicant who is fully licensed (not provisional) in another state and has practiced for at least 10 years is deemed to have met the specified experience set out in this section, providing his/her authority to practice in another state includes independent mental health practice.

5. Examination: If the applicant holds a provisional license as a mental health practitioner, s/he must have passed the mental health practice examination as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 51 and as determined by the Board, with a minimum score as specified below. The applicant must submit to the Department official documentation of passing the licensure examination;

a. Social Work: An individual who holds a master's or doctorate degree in social work from an approved education program must take the Clinical Category of the ASWB examination and pass with a minimum score set at the national cut score.

b. Professional Counseling: An individual who by reason of educational background is qualified to be certified as a certified professional counselor must take the National Board of Certified Counselor's National Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCMHCE) and pass with a minimum score set at the national pass score.

c. Marriage and Family Therapy: An individual who by reason of educational background is qualified to be certified as a marriage and family therapist must take the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) examination and pass with a minimum score set at the national pass score.

d. Other Examination: Any other examination determined by the Board to be equivalent with a minimum score determined by the Board.

Reciprocity: An applicant who is fully licensed (not provisional) in another state and has practiced for at least 5 years is deemed to have met the specified examination set out in this section, provided s/he was required to successfully pass an examination to attain the license in another state and his/her authority to practice in another state includes independent mental health practice.

94-004.02 Application: To apply for a credential to practice as an independent mental health practitioner, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

I. Written Application:

a. Personal Information:

- (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
- (2) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
- (3) Place of birth (city and state or country if not born in the United States);
- (4) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
- (5) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
 - (b) Alien Registration Number ("A#"); or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number;
Certain applicants may have both a SSN and A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both;
- (6) The applicant's telephone number including area code (optional);
- (7) The applicant's e-mail address (optional);
- (8) The applicant's fax number (optional); and
- (9) Citizenship: The applicant must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (a) A citizen of the United States;
 - (b) An alien lawfully admitted into the United State for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (c) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

b. Practice Before Application: The applicant must state:

- (1) That s/he has not practiced independent mental health in Nebraska before submitting the application; or
- (2) If s/he has practiced independent mental health in Nebraska before submitting the application, the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska before submitting the application for a credential and name and location of practice; and

c. Attestation: The applicant must attest that:

- (1) S/he has read the application or has had the application read to him/her;
- (2) All statements on the application are true and complete; and
- (3) S/he is of good character;
- (4) S/he has not committed any act that would be grounds for denial under 172 NAC 94-015 or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such act(s); and
- (5) For the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114, s/he is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her United States

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
documentation upon request.

2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:

a. Evidence of age, such as:

- (1) Driver's license;
- (2) Birth certificate;
- (3) Marriage license that provides date of birth;
- (4) Transcript that provides date of birth;
- (5) U.S. State identification card;
- (6) Military identification; or
- (7) Other similar documentation;

b. Evidence of good character, including:

- (1) Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed.

The applicant must have the licensing or certifying agency submit to the Department a certification of his/her credential.

Reciprocity: If the applicant is applying based on a license Issued in another jurisdiction, the applicant must provide documentation that his/her authority to practice in another state includes independent mental health practice.

- (2) Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary action(s) taken against the applicant's credential and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;
- (3) Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take a credentialing examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial; and
- (4) Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, the applicant must submit to the Department:
 - (a) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
 - (b) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;
 - (c) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading

to the conviction (what, when, where, why)) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the conviction;

- (d) His/her BAC level (if the conviction was alcohol related);
- (e) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
- (f) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
- (g) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department;

c. Evidence that the applicant is:

- (1) A citizen;
- (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
- (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

d. Evidence of citizenship, lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:

- (1) A U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired);
- (2) A birth certificate by a state, county, municipal authority or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal;
- (3) An American Indian Card (I-872);
- (4) A Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);
- (5) A Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561);
- (6) Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350);
- (7) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (FS-240);
- (8) Certification of Birth Abroad (FS-545 or DS-1350);
- (9) A United States Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179);
- (10) A Northern Mariana Card (I-873);
- (11) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
- (12) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
- (13) A document showing an alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
- (14) A form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;

- e. Education: Documentation of education, including:
- (1) Name and date of diploma/degree awarded;
 - (2) Name of school, college, university that awarded the diploma/degree;
 - (3) An official transcript showing proof of the required degree; and
 - (4) Evidence of meeting the education qualifications set out in 172 NAC 94-004.01, item 4.
 - (a) If the applicant graduated with a masters' or doctoral degree from an educational program which was accredited, at the time of graduation or within 4 years after graduation, by CACREP, COAMFTE, or CSWE, s/he must submit evidence of the program's accreditation status and date of accreditation. This evidence may be obtained from the accrediting agency's web site.
 - (b) If the applicant graduated from an educational program in which s/he believes is equivalent in didactic content and supervised clinical experience to a program accredited by CACREP, COAMFTE, or CSWE, s/he must submit evidence of meeting the specified accrediting agency's coursework and clinical experience requirements. Such evidence must include an official course descriptions (i.e., course catalogue, syllabi, etc), the course name and course number for each required course work area and evidence of completing the required number of practicum/internship hours; and
- f. Experience: Evidence of 3,000 hours of experience obtained in a period of not less than 2 nor more than 5 years and supervised by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed independent mental health practitioner, one-half (1,500) of which is comprised of experience with clients diagnosed under the major mental illness or disorder category;

Reciprocity: An applicant who is fully licensed (not provisional) in another state and has practiced for at least 2-5 years is deemed to have met the specified experience set out in this section, providing his/her authority to practice in another state includes independent mental health practice.

OR

Evidence of 7,000 hours of experience obtained in a period of not less than 10 years and supervised by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed independent mental health practitioner, one-half (3,500) of which is comprised of experience

with clients diagnosed under the major mental illness or disorder category.

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_____ Reciprocity: An applicant who is fully licensed (not provisional) in another state and has practiced for at least 10 years is not required to submit evidence of the experience identified in this section, providing his/her authority to practice in another state includes independent mental health practice.

g. Examination: If the applicant holds a provisional license as a mental health practitioner, documentation that the applicant:

- (1) Submitted a completed application requesting approval to test;
- (2) Submitted a completed request for special accommodations, if special testing accommodations are needed by the applicant;
- (3) Requested the examination rating/grades be sent directly to the Department from the appropriate examination service or State Board Office; and
- (4) Submitted any other documentation as requested by the Board/Department; and

3. Fee: The applicant must submit the required license fee along with the application and all required documentation.

_____ a. Prorated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date and the initial credentialing fee is \$25 or more, the Department will collect \$25 or one-fourth of the initial credentialing fee, whichever is greater, for the initial credential, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

94-004.03 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for credentialing.

94-004.04 Denial of Initial Credential: If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. If the applicant is found to have committed any act which would be grounds for denial of a credential as listed in 172 NAC 94-015, the Department may deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

94-004.05 Withdrawn Applications: An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department prior to administration of the examination will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

94-004.06 Practice Prior to Credential: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 94-018 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

94-004.07 Confidentiality: Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

94-004.08 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

94-004.09 Non-English Documents: Any documents written in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

94-005 MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER LICENSE (LMHP) REQUIREMENTS: No person may represent him/herself as a mental health practitioner unless licensed and no person may engage in the practice of mental health unless s/he is licensed, except individuals who meet Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-2121 and 172 NAC 94-006.

An individual who attains ONLY a mental health practice license can not diagnose major mental illness or disorders or use psychotherapy with individuals suspected of having major mental or emotional disorders, except in consultation with a qualified physician, licensed psychologist, or licensed independent mental health practitioner.

94-005.01 Qualifications: To receive a credential to practice as a mental health practitioner, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;
2. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
3. Education: The applicant must meet either a or b as follows:
 - a. Accredited Program: Has graduated with a masters' or doctoral degree from an educational program which was accredited, at the time of graduation or within 4 years after graduation, by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), or the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); or

b. Other Program: Has graduated from an educational program which is deemed equivalent to CACREP, COAMFTE, or CSWE and defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 6, 7, 8, or 9.

4. Experience: Has completed at least 3,000 hours of supervised experience obtained within the 5 years immediately preceding application and supervised by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent mental health practitioner or a mental health practitioner, one-half (1,500) of which is comprised of direct client contact. If the hours were earned in Nebraska, the applicant must have held a provisional license as a mental health practitioner while s/he earned the hours.

Reciprocity: An applicant who is fully licensed (not provisional) in another state and has practiced for at least 2 years is deemed to have met the specified experience set out in this section, providing his/her authority to practice in another state includes mental health practice.

5. Examination: Has passed the mental health practice examination as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 51 and as determined by the Board, with a minimum score as specified below. The applicant must submit to the Department Official documentation of passing the licensure examination:

a. Social Work: An individual who holds a master's or doctorate degree in social work from an approved education program must take the Clinical Category of the ASWB examination and pass with a minimum score set at the national pass point.

b. Professional Counseling: An individual who by reason of educational background is qualified to be certified as a certified professional counselor must take the National Board of Certified Counselor's National Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCMHCE) and pass with a minimum score set at the National Cut Score.

c. Marriage and Family Therapy: An individual who by reason of educational background is qualified to be certified as a marriage and family therapist must take the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) examination and pass with a minimum score set at the National Pass Point.

d. Other Examination: Any other examination determined by the Board to be equivalent with a minimum score determined by the Board.

Reciprocity: An applicant who is fully licensed (not provisional) in another state and has practiced for at least 5 years is deemed to have met the specified examination set out in this section, provided s/he was required to successfully pass an examination to attain the license in another state and his/her authority to practice in another state includes mental health practice.

94-005.02 Application: To apply for a credential to practice as a mental health practitioner, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

1. Written Application:

a. Personal Information:

- (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
- (2) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
- (3) Place of birth (city and state or country if not born in the United States);
- (4) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
- (5) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
 - (b) Alien Registration Number ("A#"); or
 - (c) Form I-94 (arrival-Departure Record) number; Certain applicants may have both a SSN and A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both;
- (6) The applicant's telephone number including area code (optional);
- (7) The applicant's e-mail address (optional);
- (8) The applicant's fax number (optional); and
- (9) Citizenship: The applicant must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (a) A citizen of the United States;
 - (b) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (c) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

b. Practice Before Application: The applicant must state:

- (1) That s/he has not practiced mental health in Nebraska before submitting the application; or
- (2) If s/he has practiced mental health in Nebraska before submitting the application, the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska before submitting the application for a credential and name and location of practice; and

c. Attestation: The applicant must attest that:

- (1) S/he has read the application or has had the application read to him/her;

- (2) All statements on the application are true and complete;
- (3) S/he is of good character;
- (4) S/he has not committed any act that would be grounds for denial under 172 NAC 94-015 or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such act(s); and
- (5) For the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114, s/he is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documentation upon request.

2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:

a. Evidence of age, such as:

- (1) Driver's license;
- (2) Birth certificate;
- (3) Marriage license that provides date of birth;
- (4) Transcript that provides date of birth;
- (5) U.S. State identification card;
- (6) Military identification; or
- (7) Other similar documentation;

b. Evidence of good character, including:

- (1) Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed.

The applicant must have the licensing or certifying agency submit to the Department a certification of his/her credential.

Reciprocity: If the applicant is applying based on a license issued in another jurisdiction, the applicant must provide documentation that his/her authority to practice in another state includes mental health practice.

- (2) Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary action(s) taken against the applicant's credential and copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;

- (3) Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take an examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial; and
- (4) Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, the applicant must submit to the Department:
 - (a) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
 - (b) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;
 - (c) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the conviction;
 - (d) His/her BAC level (if the conviction was alcohol related);
 - (e) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
 - (f) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
 - (g) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department;

c. Evidence that the applicant is:

- (1) A citizen;
- (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
- (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

d. Evidence of citizenship, lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:

- (1) A U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired);
- (2) A birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal;
- (3) An American Indian Card (I-872);
- (4) A Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);
- (5) A Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561);
- (6) Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350);
- (7) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United

- States of America (FS-240);
- (8) Certification of Birth Abroad (FS-545 or DS-1350);
- (9) A United States Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179);
- (10) A Northern Mariana Card (I-873);
- (11) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
- (12) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
- (13) A document showing an alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
- (14) A form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
- e. Education: Documentation of education, including:
 - (1) Name and date of diploma/degree awarded;
 - (2) Name of school, college, university that awarded the diploma/degree;
 - (3) An official transcript showing proof of the required degree; and
 - (4) Evidence of meeting the educational requirements as specified in 172 NAC 94-002, item 6, 7, 8, or 9.
- f. Experience: Evidence of 3,000 hours of experience obtained within the 5 years immediately preceding application and supervised by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent mental health practitioner or a mental health practitioner, one-half (1,500) of which is comprised of direct client contact; and
- g. Examination: Documentation that the applicant:
 - (1) Submitted a completed application for requesting approval to test;
 - (2) Submitted a completed request for special accommodations, if special testing accommodations are needed by the applicant;
 - (3) Requested the examination rating/grades be sent directly to the Department from the appropriate examination service or State Board Office; and
 - (4) Submitted any other documentation as requested by the Board/Department; and
- 3. Fee: The applicant must submit the required license fee along with the application and all required documentation.
 - a. Prorated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date and the initial credentialing fee is \$25 or more, the Department will collect \$25 or one-fourth of the initial credentialing fee, whichever is greater, for the initial credential, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

94-005.03 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for credentialing.

94-005.04 Denial of Initial Credential: If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. If the applicant is found to have committed any act which would be grounds for denial of a credential as listed in 172 NAC 94-015, the Department may deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

94-005.05 Withdrawn Applications: An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department prior to administration of the examination will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

94-005.06 Practice Prior to Credential: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 94-018 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

94-005.07 Confidentiality: Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

94-005.08 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

94-005.09 Non-English Documents: Any documents written in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

94-006 EXCEPTIONS FROM LICENSURE AS AN INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER OR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER: The requirements to be licensed as an independent mental health practitioner or as a mental health practitioner does not preclude:

1. Qualified members of other professions who are licensed, certified, or registered by this state from practice of any mental health activity consistent with the scope of practice of their respective professions;
2. Alcohol and drug counselors who are licensed by the Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and problem gambling counselors who are certified by the Department of Health and Human Services from practicing their profession. This includes students training and working under the supervision of an

individual qualified under Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-315 for alcohol and drug counselor licensure;

3. Any person employed by an agency, bureau, or division of the federal government from discharging his/her official duties, except that if such person engages in mental health practice in this state outside the scope of such official duty or represents himself /herself as a licensed health practitioner, s/he must be licensed;
4. Teaching or the conduct of research related to mental health services or consultation with organizations or institutions if such teaching, research, or consultation does not involve the delivery or supervision of mental health services to individuals or groups of individuals who are themselves, rather than a third party, the intended beneficiaries of such services;
5. The delivery of mental health services by:
 - a. Students, interns, or residents whose activities constitute a part of the course of study for medicine, psychology, nursing, school psychology, social work, clinical social work, counseling, marriage and family therapy, or other health care or mental health service professions; or
 - b. Individuals seeking to fulfill postgraduate requirements for licensure when those individuals are supervised by a licensed professional consistent with the applicable regulations of the appropriate professional board;
6. Duly recognized members of the clergy from providing mental health services in the course of their ministerial duties and consistent with the codes of ethics of their profession if they do not represent themselves to be mental health practitioners;
7. The incidental exchange of advice or support by persons who do not represent themselves as engaging in mental health practice, including participation in self-help groups when the leaders of such groups receive no compensation for their participation and do not represent themselves as mental health practitioners or their services as mental health practice;
8. Any person providing emergency crisis intervention or referral services or limited services supporting a service plan developed by and delivered under the supervision of a licensed mental health practitioner, licensed physician, or a psychologist licensed to engage in the practice of psychology if such persons are not represented as being licensed mental health practitioners or their services are not represented as mental health practice; or
9. Staff employed in a program designated by an agency of state government to provide rehabilitation and support services to individuals with mental illness from completing a rehabilitation assessment or preparing, implementing, and evaluating an individual rehabilitation plan.

94-007 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST CERTIFICATE (CMFT) REQUIREMENTS: An individual who is qualified to be licensed as an independent mental health practitioner or mental health practitioner may apply for an associated certification as a certified marriage and family therapist.

94-007.01 Titles:

1. LIMHP and CMFT: A person who is licensed as an independent mental health practitioner and certified as a marriage and family therapist may use the title Licensed Independent Marriage and Family Therapist (LIMFT).
2. LMHP and CMFT: A person who is licensed as a mental health practitioner and certified as a marriage and family therapist may use the title Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT).

Any person who represents him/herself as a certified marriage and family therapist must be certified as a marriage and family therapist and licensed as a mental health practitioner or independent mental health practitioner.

94-007.02 Qualifications: To receive a certification to represent oneself as a certified marriage and family therapist, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. License: Hold an active independent mental health practice license, a mental health practice license or be eligible and have made application for licensure;
2. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;
3. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
4. Education: Have received a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program approved by the Board or a graduate degree in a field determined by the Board to be related to marriage and family therapy and graduate-level course work determined by the Board to be equivalent to a master's degree in marriage and family therapy as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 6; and
5. Experience: Have received at least 3,000 hours of experience in marriage and family therapy under a qualified supervisor as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 62 following receipt of the graduate degree.
6. Examination: Pass the AMFTRB certification examination with a minimum score set at the national pass point.

94-007.03 Application: To apply for a credential to represent oneself as a certified marriage and family therapist, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

1. Written Application: The applicant must complete all information requested in 172 NAC 94-004.02 (LIMHP) or 94-005.02 (LMHP), relating to:

- a. Personal Information;
- b. Practice Before Application; and
- c. Attestation.

2. Documentation: The applicant must submit all documentation requested in 172 NAC 94-004.02 (LIMHP) or 94-005.02 (LMHP), relating to:

- a. Evidence of Age;
- b. Evidence of Good Character;
- c. Citizenship/Resident Information;
- d. Education;
- e. Experience;
- f. Examination; and
- g. Fee.

94-007.04 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for licensure.

94-007.05 Denial of Initial Credential: If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. If the applicant is found to have committed any act which would be grounds for denial of a credential as listed in 172 NAC 94-015, the Department may deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

94-007.06 Withdrawn Applications: An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department prior to administration of the examination will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

94-007.07 Practice Prior to Credential: An individual who represents himself/herself as a certified marriage and family therapist prior to issuance of a credential s/he is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 94-018 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

94-007.08 Confidentiality: Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if

necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

94-007.09 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

94-007.10 Non-English Documents: Any documents written in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

94-008 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR CERTIFICATE (CPC) REQUIREMENTS: An individual who is qualified to be licensed as an independent mental health practitioner or mental health practitioner may apply for an associated certification as a certified professional counselor.

94-008.01 Titles:

1. LIMHP and CPC: A person who is licensed as an independent mental health practitioner and certified as a professional counselor may use the title Licensed Independent Professional Counselor (LIPC).
2. LMHP and CPC: A person who is licensed as a mental health practitioner and certified as a professional counselor may use the title Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

Any person who represents him/herself as a certified professional counselor must be certified as a certified professional counselor and licensed as a mental health practitioner or independent mental health practitioner.

94-008.02 Qualifications: To receive a certification to represent oneself as a certified marriage and family therapist, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. License: Hold an active independent mental health practice license, a mental health practice license or be eligible and have made application for licensure;
2. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;
3. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
4. Education: Have received a master's or doctoral degree from an approved professional counseling program as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 8; and

5. Examination: Pass the National Board of Certified Counselor's National Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCMHCE) with a minimum score set at the national cut score.

94-007.03 Application: To apply for a credential to represent oneself as a certified professional counselor, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

1. Written Application: The applicant must complete all information requested in 172 NAC 94-004.02 (LIMHP) or 94-005.02 (LMHP), relating to:

- a. Personal Information;
- b. Practice Before Application; and
- c. Attestation.

2. Documentation: The applicant must submit all documentation requested in 172 NAC 94-004.02 (LIMHP) or 94-005.02 (LMHP), relating to:

- a. Evidence of Age;
- b. Evidence of Good Character;
- c. Citizenship/Resident Information;
- d. Education;
- e. Examination; and
- f. Fee.

94-008.04 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for licensure.

94-008.05 Denial of Initial Credential: If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. If the applicant is found to have committed any act which would be grounds for denial of a credential as listed in 172 NAC 94-015, the Department may deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

94-008.06 Withdrawn Applications: An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department prior to administration of the examination will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

94-008.07 Practice Prior to Credential: An individual who represents himself/herself as a certified professional counselor prior to issuance of a credential s/he is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 94-018 or such other action as

provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

94-008.08 Confidentiality: Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

94-008.09 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

94-008.10 Non-English Documents: Any documents written in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

94-009 MASTER SOCIAL WORKER CERTIFICATE (CMSW) AND LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER (LCSW) REQUIREMENTS: An individual who is qualified to be licensed as an independent mental health practitioner or mental health practitioner may apply for an associated certification as a certified master social worker.

An individual who practices pursuant to 172 NAC 94-002, item 64 (definition of social work) is not required to be licensed or certified as long as s/he does not represent him/herself as a mental health practitioner or as a social worker. An individual may be certified without licensure as a mental health practitioner or licensed independent mental health practitioner if s/he practices pursuant to 172 NAC 94-002, item 64 (definition of social work).

Exceptions: The requirement to be certified as a social worker under the Uniform Credentialing Act to represent him/herself as a social worker does not preclude:

1. Qualified members of other professions, including, but not limited to, licensed physicians, registered or licensed practical nurses, attorneys, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, psychotherapists, vocational guidance counselors, school psychologists, members of the clergy, court employees, or other persons credentialed under the Uniform Credentialing Act from doing work consistent with the scope of practice of their respective professions, except that such qualified members must not hold themselves out to the public by title as being engaged in the practice of social work; or
2. The activities and services of a student or intern in social work practice who is pursuing a course of study in an approved educational program if the activities and services constitute a part of his/her supervised course of study or experience for certification and are performed under the supervision of a certified master social worker and the person is identified by an appropriate title as a social work student or intern. For purposes of this regulation, supervision means that written records of services or procedures are examined and evaluative interviews are conducted relative thereto by a certified master social worker.

94-009.01 Titles:

1. LIMHP and CMSW: A person who is licensed as an independent mental health practitioner and certified as a master social worker may use the title Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW).
2. LMHP and CMSW: A person who is licensed as a mental health practitioner and certified as a master social worker may use the title Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

Any person who presents him/herself as a social worker must be certified as a certified master social worker or certified social worker.

94-009.02 Clinical Social Worker Qualifications: To receive a certification to represent oneself as a social worker, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. License: Hold an active independent mental health practice license, a mental health practice license or be eligible and have made application for licensure;
2. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;
3. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
4. Education: Have received a master's or doctorate degree in social work from an approved education program approved by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) showing receipt of either the master's or doctorate degree in social work;
5. Experience: Have 3,000 hours of experience in the practice of social work as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 64 (definition of social work), under the supervision of a certified master social worker. The hours must have been earned following receipt of the master's or doctorate degree.

Reciprocity: An applicant who is fully licensed (not provisional) in another state and has practiced for at least 2 years prior to the application for certification in Nebraska is deemed to have met the specified experience set out in this section, providing his/her authority to practice in another state includes social work; and

6. Examination: Have passed the Clinical Social Work examination administered by the American Association of State Social Work Boards (ASWB) with a score set at the national pass score.

94-009.03 Clinical Social Worker Written Application: To apply for a credential to represent oneself as a social worker, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

1. Written Application: The applicant must complete all information requested in 172 NAC 94-004.02 (LIMHP) or 94-005.02 (LMHP), relating to:

- a. Personal Information;
- b. Practice Before Application; and
- c. Attestation.

2. Documentation: The applicant must submit all documentation requested in 172 NAC 94-004.02 (LIMHP) or 94-005.02 (LMHP), relating to:

- a. Evidence of Age;
- b. Evidence of Good Character;
- c. Citizenship/Resident Information;
- d. Education;
- e. Experience;
- f. Examination; and
- g. Fee.

94-009.04 Master Social Worker Qualifications: To receive a certification to represent oneself as a master social worker (and does not hold or is not requesting an independent mental health practice license or mental health practice license), an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;

2. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

3. Education: Have graduated with a masters' or doctoral degree from an educational program which is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE);

4. Experience: Have completed at least 3,000 hours of experience as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 64 (definition of social work) supervised by a certified master social worker. The hours must have been earned following receipt of the master's or doctorate degree.

Reciprocity: An applicant who is fully licensed/certified (not provisional) in another state and has practiced for at least 2 years prior to the application

for licensure in Nebraska is deemed to have met the specified experience set out in this section, providing his/her authority to practice in another state includes social work practice; and

5. Examination: Have passed the Advanced Generalist or Clinical examination administered by the American Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) with a score set at the national pass point.

Reciprocity: An applicant who is fully licensed/certified (not provisional) in another state and has practiced for at least 5 years prior to the application for licensure in Nebraska is deemed to have met the specified examination set out in this section, provided s/he was required to successfully pass an examination to attain the license in another state and his/her authority to practice in another state includes social work.

94-009.05 Master Social Work Application: To apply for a credential to represent oneself as a master social worker, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes the documentation and required fee as well as the application on a form provided by the Department or on an alternate format that includes the following:

1. Written Application:

a. Personal Information:

- (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
- (2) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
- (3) Place of birth (city and state or country if not born in the United States);
- (4) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
- (5) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
 - (b) Alien Registration Number ("A#"); or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number;Certain applicants may have both a SSN and A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both;
- (6) The applicant's telephone number including area code (optional);
- (7) The applicant's e-mail address (optional);
- (8) The applicant's fax number (optional); and
- (9) Citizenship: The applicant must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (a) A citizen of the United States;
 - (b) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or

- (c) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
- b. Practice Before Application: The applicant must state:
- (1) That s/he has not represented herself/himself as a social worker in Nebraska before submitting the application; or
 - (2) If s/he has represented herself/himself as a social worker in Nebraska before submitting the application, the actual number of days of representation in Nebraska before submitting the application for a credential and name and location of practice; and
- c. Attestation: The applicant must attest that:
- (1) S/he has read the application or has had the application read to him/her;
 - (2) All statements on the application are true and complete;
 - (3) S/he is of good character; and
 - (4) S/he has not committed any act that would be grounds for denial under 172 NAC 94-015 or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such act(s);
 - (5) For the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114, s/he is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documentation upon request.
2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:
- a. Evidence of age, such as:
- (1) Driver's license;
 - (2) Birth certificate;
 - (3) Marriage license that provides date of birth;
 - (4) Transcript that provides date of birth;
 - (5) U.S. State identification card;
 - (6) Military identification; or
 - (7) Other similar documentation;
- b. Evidence of good character, including:
- (1) Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date

of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed.

The applicant must have the licensing or certifying agency submit to the Department a certification of his/her credential.

Reciprocity: If the applicant is applying based on a License Issued in Another Jurisdiction, the applicant must provide documentation that his/her authority to practice in another state includes social work practice;

- (2) Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary action(s) taken against the applicant's credential and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;
- (3) Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take an examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial; and
- (4) Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, the applicant must submit to the Department:
 - (a) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
 - (b) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;
 - (c) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the conviction;
 - (d) His/her BAC level (if the conviction was alcohol related);
 - (e) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
 - (f) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
 - (g) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department;

c. Evidence that the applicant is:

- (1) A citizen;
- (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
- (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa

for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

d. Evidence of citizenship, lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:

- (1) A U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired);
- (2) A birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal;
- (3) An American Indian Card (I-872);
- (4) A Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);
- (5) A Certificate of Citizenship, lawful permanent residence, (N-560 or N-561);
- (6) Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350);
- (7) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (FS-240);
- (8) Certification of Birth Abroad (FS-545 or DS-1350);
- (9) A United States Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179);
- (10) A Northern Mariana Card (I-873);
- (11) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
- (12) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
- (13) A document showing an alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
- (14) A form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;

e. Education: Evidence of education, including:

- (1) Name and date of diploma/degree awarded;
- (2) Name of school, college, university that awarded the diploma/degree; and
- (3) An official transcript showing proof of the required degree.

f. Experience: Documentation of 3,000 hours of experience obtained preceding application and supervised by a master social worker; and

g. Examination: Documentation that the applicant:

- (1) Submitted a completed application requesting approval to test;
- (2) Submitted a completed request for special accommodations, if special testing accommodations are needed by the applicant;
- (3) Requested the examination rating/grades be sent directly to the Department from the appropriate examination service or State Board Office; and
- (4) Submitted any other documentation as requested by the Board/Department; and

3. Fee: The applicant must submit the required certification fee along with the

application and all required documentation.

- a. Prorated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date and the initial credentialing fee is \$25 or more, the Department will collect \$25 or one-fourth of the initial credentialing fee, whichever is greater, for the initial credential, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

94-009.06 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for licensure.

94-009.07 Denial of Initial Credential: If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. If the applicant is found to have committed any act which would be grounds for denial of a credential as listed in 172 NAC 94-015, the Department may deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

94-009.08 Withdrawn Applications: An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department prior to administration of the examination will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

94-009.09 Practice Prior to Credential: An individual who represents himself/herself as a social worker prior to issuance of a credential s/he is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 94-018 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

94-009.10 Confidentiality: Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

94-009.11 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

94-009.12 Non-English Documents: Any documents written in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

94-010 PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION AS A MASTER SOCIAL WORKER (PCMSW) REQUIREMENTS: A person who needs to obtain the required 3,000 hours of supervised experience in social work as specified in 172 NAC 94-002, item 65 in order to qualify for a certification as a master social worker must obtain a provisional certification as a master social

worker before beginning his/her supervised experience. Any hours earned prior to the receipt of the provisional certificate may not be considered for a certificate as a master social worker.

The criteria for the issuance of a provisional certificate and the documentation required by the Department and the Board are set forth below and ONLY applies to those earning hours in Nebraska.

94-010.01 Qualifications: To receive a credential to represent him/herself as a provisional master social worker, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;
2. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
3. Education: Has graduated with masters' or doctoral degree from an educational program which is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); and
4. Supervisor: Have a supervisor who meets the definition of a qualified supervised as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, item 61.

94-010.02 Application: To apply for a credential to practice as a provisional master social worker, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

1. Written Application:
 - a. Personal Information:
 - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
 - (2) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
 - (3) Place of birth (city and state or country if not born in the United States);
 - (4) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
 - (5) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
 - (b) Alien Registration Number ("A#") or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number;Certain applicants may have both a SSN and A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both;
 - (6) The applicant's telephone number including area code

(7) Other similar documentation;

b. Evidence of good character, including:

(1) Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed;

The applicant must have the licensing or certifying agency submit to the Department a certification of his/her credential.

(2) Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary actions taken against the applicant's credential, and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;

(3) Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take an examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial;

(4) Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, the applicant must submit to the Department:

(a) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;

(b) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;

(c) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the convictions;

(d) His/her BAC level (if the conviction was alcohol related);

(e) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;

(f) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and

(g) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department;

c. Evidence that the applicant is:

(1) A citizen;

- (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
- d. Evidence of citizenship, lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:
- (1) A U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired);
 - (2) A birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal;
 - (3) An American Indian Card (I-872);
 - (4) A Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);
 - (5) A Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561);
 - (6) Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350);
 - (7) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (FS-240);
 - (8) Certification of Birth Abroad (FS-545 or DS-1350);
 - (9) A United States Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179);
 - (10) A Northern Mariana Card (I-873);
 - (11) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (12) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (13) A document showing an alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
 - (14) A form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
- e. Supervisor Information:
- (1) Name of supervisor;
 - (2) Address of supervisor; and
 - (3) Supervisor's license number and telephone number;
- f. Supervision: Have arranged supervision with a qualified supervisor in Nebraska. The supervisor must attest to the supervision on a form provided by the Department or on an alternate format which includes the same information;
- g. Education and practicum: Documentation of education/practicum, including:
- (1) Name and date of diploma/degree awarded;
 - (2) Name of school, college, university that awarded the diploma/degree; and
 - (3) An official transcript showing proof of the required degree; and

3. Fee: The applicant must submit the required license fee along with the application and all required documentation.

a. Prorated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date and the initial credentialing fee is \$25 or more, the Department will collect \$25 or one-fourth of the initial credentialing fee, whichever is greater, for the initial credential, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

94-010.03 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for credentialing.

94-010.04 Denial of Initial Credential: If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. If the applicant is found to have committed any act which would be grounds for denial of a credential as listed in 172 NAC 94-015, the Department may deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

94-010.05 Withdrawn Applications: An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department prior to administration of the examination will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

94-010.06 Practice Prior to Credential: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 94-018 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

94-010.07 Confidentiality: Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

94-010.08 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

94-010.09 Non-English Documents: Any documents written in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

94-010.10 Expiration of a Provisional License: A provisional license expires upon the following conditions:

1. Termination of supervision agreement or change in supervisor; or

2. Receipt of the certification as a master social worker or 5 years after the date of issuance, whichever comes first.

94-010.11 Second Provisional License: An individual who does not complete the hours required for licensure within the specified 5 year period may re-apply one time for another provisional certification.

94-010.12 Client Notification: An individual who holds a provisional certification must inform all clients that s/he holds a provisional certification as a master social worker and is practicing social work under supervision and must identify the supervisor. Failure to make such a disclosure is a ground for discipline as set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-2139.

94-010.13 Change of Supervisor: An individual who changes his/her supervisor or adds a new supervisor must submit an application within 30 days following the change. The application may be submitted on a form provided by the Department or on an alternate format which includes all information as specified in 172 NAC 94-010. Failure to notify the department of a change of supervisor will invalidate any hours of direct client contact gained during the applicable period of time.

94-010.14 Termination of Supervision: If a supervisor or provisional licensee terminates supervision, s/he must notify the Department in writing immediately of the date of termination. The Department will record said termination date in the record.

94-011 CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER (CSW) REQUIREMENTS: An individual who practices pursuant to 172 NAC 94-002, item 64 (definition of social work) is not required to be licensed or certified as long as s/he does not represent him/herself as a mental health practitioner or as a social worker. An individual may be certified as a social worker if s/he practices pursuant to 172 NAC 94-002, item 64.

94-011.01 Social Worker Qualifications: To receive a certification to represent oneself as a social worker, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;
2. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States; and
3. Education: Have graduated with a baccalaureate, masters' or doctoral degree from an educational program which is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

94-011.02 Social Work Application: To apply for a credential to represent oneself as a social worker, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written

application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

1. Written Application:

a. Personal Information:

- (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
- (2) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
- (3) Place of birth (city and state or country if not born in the United States);
- (4) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
- (5) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
 - (b) Alien Registration Number ("A#"); or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number;
Certain applicants may have both a SSN and A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both;
- (6) The applicant's telephone number including area code (optional);
- (7) The applicant's e-mail address (optional);
- (8) The applicant's fax number (optional); and
- (9) Citizenship: The applicant must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (a) A citizen of the United States;
 - (b) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (c) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

b. Practice Before Application: The applicant must state:

- (1) That s/he has not represented herself/himself as a social worker in Nebraska before submitting the application; or
- (2) If s/he has represented herself/himself as a social worker in Nebraska before submitting the application, the actual number of days of representation in Nebraska before submitting the application for a credential and name and location of practice; and

c. Attestation: The applicant must attest that:

- (1) S/he has read the application or has had the application read to him/her;
- (2) All statements on the application are true and complete;
- (3) S/he is of good character; and

- (4) S/he has not committed any act that would be grounds for denial under 172 NAC 94-006 or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such act(s);
- (5) For the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114, s/he is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documentation upon request.

2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:

a. Evidence of age, such as:

- (1) Driver's license;
- (2) Birth certificate;
- (3) Marriage license that provides date of birth;
- (4) Transcript that provides date of birth;
- (5) U.S. State identification card;
- (6) Military identification; or
- (7) Other similar documentation;

b. Evidence of good character, including:

- (a) Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed.

The applicant must have the licensing or certifying agency submit to the Department a certification of his/her credential.

- (b) Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary action(s) taken against the applicant's credential and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;
- (c) Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take an examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial; and
- (d) Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, the applicant must submit to the Department:
 - (a) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
 - (b) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;

- (c) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the conviction;
 - (d) His/her BAC level (if the conviction was alcohol related);
 - (e) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
 - (f) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
 - (g) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department; and
- c. Evidence that the applicant is:
- (1) A citizen;
 - (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
- d. Evidence of citizenship, lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:
- (1) A U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired);
 - (2) A birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal;
 - (3) An American Indian Card (I-872);
 - (4) A Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);
 - (5) A Certificate of Citizenship, lawful permanent residence, (N-560 or N-561);
 - (6) Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350);
 - (7) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (FS-240);
 - (8) Certification of Birth Abroad (FS-545 or DS-1350);
 - (9) A United States Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179);
 - (10) A Northern Mariana Card (I-873);
 - (11) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (12) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (13) A document showing an alien Registration Number ("A#")

with visa status; or
(14) A form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;

- e. Education: Documentation of education, including:
(1) Name and date of diploma/degree awarded;
(2) Name of school, college, university that awarded the diploma/degree; and
(3) An official transcript showing proof of the required degree; and

3. Fee: The applicant must submit the required certification fee along with the application and all required documentation.

- a. Prorated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date and the initial credentialing fee is \$25 or more, the Department will collect \$25 or one-fourth of the initial credentialing fee, whichever is greater, for the initial credential, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

94-011.03 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for licensure.

94-011.04 Denial of Initial Credential: If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential or if the applicant is found to have committed any of the grounds listed in 172 NAC 94-015, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

94-011.05 Withdrawn Applications: An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department prior to administration of the examination will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

94-011.06 Practice Prior to Credential: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 94-018 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

94-011.07 Confidentiality: Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

94-011.08 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

94-011.09 Non-English Documents: Any documents written in a language other than

English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

94-004 PROVISIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS (PLMHP):

~~A person who needs to obtain the required 3,000 hours of supervised experience in mental health practice in Nebraska, as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, in order to qualify for a mental health practitioner license must obtain a provisional mental health before beginning his/her supervised experience. Any hours earned in Nebraska prior to the receipt of the provisional license may not be considered for a license as a mental health practitioner.~~

~~The criteria for the issuance of a provisional license and the documentation required by the Department and the Board are set forth below and only applies to those earning hours in Nebraska.~~

94-004.01 Requirements: ~~A person applying for a provisional license to practice as a mental health practitioner must:~~

- ~~1. Have a master's or doctorate degree of which the course work and training leading to the degree was primarily therapeutic mental health in content as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, and included a practicum or internship. A practicum or internship which is completed after September 1, 1995 must include a minimum of 300 clock hours of direct client contact under supervision;~~
- ~~2. Have arranged supervision with a qualified supervisor in Nebraska; and~~
- ~~3. Have attained at least the age of majority and be of good moral character.~~

94-004.02 Application Process: ~~The following must be submitted to the Department:~~

- ~~1. An application for a provisional mental health practice license. The application may be submitted on Attachment C attached to these regulations and incorporated by this reference or an alternate form that contains the same information.~~
- ~~2. Official Transcript verifying a master's or doctorate degree from an approved program, which includes coursework as follows:
 - ~~a. A practicum or internship as defined in 172 NAC 94-002;~~
 - ~~b. Coursework as defined in 172 NAC 94-002. If an individual has not completed all 5 course work areas as specified, the remaining area must be completed prior to licensure; and~~
 - ~~c. Official course descriptions for each course submitted (i.e., course catalogue, syllabi, etc) and indication of the course name and course number.~~~~
- ~~3. Evidence of an assigned qualified supervisor;~~
- ~~4. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority, examples of evidence are:
 - ~~a. Driver's license;~~
 - ~~b. Birth certificate;~~
 - ~~c. Marriage license;~~
 - ~~d. Official transcript which provides date of birth; or~~
 - ~~e. Other similar documentation;~~~~
- ~~5. If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's license by another state, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition;~~
- ~~6. If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor:
 - ~~a. Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~~~

- b. Copies of arrest records;
- c. BAC level (if conviction was alcohol related);
- d. A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;
- e. All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and
- f. A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation;

7. Attestation by the applicant:

- a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska prior to the application for a license; or
- b. To the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska prior to the application for a license; and

8. The required provisional license fee.

~~94-004.03 Expiration of a Provisional License:~~ A provisional mental health practice license expires upon the following conditions:

- 1. Termination of supervision agreement or change in supervisor; or
- 2. Receipt of the licensure as a mental health practitioner or 5 years after the date of issuance, whichever comes first.

~~94-004.03A~~ An individual who does not complete the hours required for licensure within the specified 5 year period may re-apply one time for another provisional license.

~~94-004.04 Client Notification:~~ An individual who holds a provisional mental health practitioner license must inform all clients that s/he holds a provisional license and is practicing mental health under supervision and must identify the supervisor. Failure to make such a disclosure is a ground for discipline as set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-147.

~~94-004.05 Change of Supervisor:~~ An individual who changes his/her supervisor or adds a new supervisor must submit an application within 30 days following the change. The application may be submitted on Attachment D attached to these regulations and incorporated by this reference or an alternate format which includes all information as specified in 172 NAC 94-004.01 and 94-004.02.

~~94-004.06 Termination of Supervision:~~ If a supervisor or provisional licensee terminates supervision, s/he must notify the Department in writing immediately of the date of termination. The Department will record said termination date in the record.

~~94-004.07 Administrative Penalty/Other Action:~~ An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

~~94-004.08 Department Review:~~ The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for license.

~~94-005 MASTER SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, OR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS:~~ An individual who is qualified to be licensed as a mental health practitioner may apply for an associated certification as a certified master social worker, a certified professional counselor, or a certified marriage and family therapist.

An individual who practices pursuant to 172 NAC 94-002 (definition of social work) is not required to be licensed or certified as long as s/he does not represent himself/herself as a mental health practitioner or as a social worker. An individual may be certified without licensure

~~as a master social worker or as a social worker if s/he practices pursuant to 172 NAC 94-002 (definition of social work).~~

~~94-005.01 INITIAL CERTIFICATION AS A CERTIFIED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER:~~

~~Any person who presents himself/herself as a social worker must be certified as a master social worker.~~

~~94-005.01A Requirements: An applicant as a certified master social worker on the basis of an examination must:~~

- ~~1. Have a master's or doctorate degree in social work from an approved education program approved by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) showing receipt of either the master's or doctorate degree in social work;~~
- ~~2. Have 3,000 hours of experience in the practice of social work as defined in 172 NAC 94-002 (definition of social work), under the supervision of a certified master social worker. The hours must have been earned following receipt of the master's or doctorate degree;~~
- ~~3. Have passed the Clinical Social Work examination administered by the American Association of State Social Work Boards (ASWB) with a scaled score of 75 or higher; and~~
- ~~4. Have attained at least the age of majority and have good moral character.~~

~~94-005.01B Application Process: The following must be submitted to the Department:~~

- ~~1. A complete application on Attachment A or an alternate form which contains the same information. Only applications which are complete will be considered;~~
- ~~2. An official transcript or certified documentation from an approved education program showing receipt of either the master's or doctorate degree in social work;~~
- ~~3. Documentation of 3,000 hours of supervised experience in the practice of social work on Attachment A1;~~
- ~~4. Official documentation of the examination score;~~
- ~~5. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority, examples of evidence are:
 - ~~a. Driver's license;~~
 - ~~b. Birth certificate;~~
 - ~~c. Marriage license;~~
 - ~~d. Official transcript which provides date of birth; or~~
 - ~~e. Other similar documentation;~~~~
- ~~6. If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's license by another state, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition;~~
- ~~7. If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor:
 - ~~a. Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~b. Copies of arrest records;~~
 - ~~c. BAC level (if conviction was alcohol related);~~
 - ~~d. A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~e. All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~~~

~~f. A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation;~~

~~8. Attestation by the applicant:~~

- ~~a. That s/he has not represented herself/himself as a social worker in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; or~~
- ~~b. To the actual number of days represented herself/himself as a social worker in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; and~~

~~9. The required certification fee:~~

~~94-005.01C Pro-rated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the Department will collect \$25, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date. If the applicant is only applying for a social work certificate and not a mental health practice license, the Department will also collect the Licensee Assistance Program fee of \$1.~~

~~94-005.01D Administrative Penalty/Other Action: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.~~

~~4-005.01E Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for license. The division will issue a letter of authority to individuals who hold a license and a certification stating they may use the title "Licensed Clinical Social Worker".~~

~~94-005.02 RECIPROCIITY - CERTIFIED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER (BASED ON A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION)~~

~~94-005.02A Requirements: An applicant for certification as a certified master social worker from another jurisdiction must:~~

- ~~1. Qualify for licensure and have made application for a license as a mental health practitioner, except when s/he practices within the confines of 172 NAC 94-002 (definition of social work), licensure is not required;~~
- ~~2. Have a Master's or Doctorate degree in social work from an approved education program;~~
- ~~3. Have been in the active and continuous practice under the license or certification in the State, Territory, or District of Columbia from which s/he comes for at least one year; and have been actively engaged in the practice under such license or certificate or in an accepted residency or graduate training program for at least one of the three years immediately preceding the application for certification;~~
- ~~4. Have passed the Advanced Level C, Advanced or Clinical Social Work Certification examination administered by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) or an equivalent examination with a scaled score of 75 or higher; and~~
- ~~5. Have attained the age of majority and have good moral character.~~

~~94-005.02B Application Process: The following must be submitted to the Department:~~

- ~~1. A complete application on Attachment B or an alternate form which contains the same information. Only applications which are complete will be considered;~~
- ~~2. An official transcript from an approved education program showing receipt of either the master's or doctorate degree in social work~~

- and/or certified proof of receipt of either a master's or doctorate degree in social work from an approved education program;
- ~~3. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority, examples of evidence are:
 - a. Driver's license;
 - b. Birth certificate;
 - c. Marriage license;
 - d. Official transcript which provides date of birth; or
 - e. Other similar documentation;~~
 - ~~4. If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's license by another state, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~5. If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor:
 - a. Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;
 - b. Copies of arrest records;
 - c. BAC level (if conviction was alcohol related);
 - d. A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;
 - e. All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and
 - f. A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation;~~
 - ~~6. Documentation that the applicant has been in the active and continuous practice of social work for at least one year of the three years immediately preceding the date of application for a Nebraska certificate; or
 - a. Documentation that the applicant has been in the active and continuous practice of clinical social work for at least one year of the three years immediately preceding the date of application for a Nebraska license and certification, if the applicant intends to provide mental health services as defined in 172 NAC 94-002 (definition of social work);~~
 - ~~7. Attestation by the applicant:
 - a. That s/he has not represented herself/himself as a social worker in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; or
 - b. To the actual number of days represented herself/himself as a social worker in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; and~~
 - ~~8. The required certificate fee.~~

~~94-005.02B1~~ The applicant must have the licensing or certifying agency submit to the Department:

- ~~1. A certification on Attachment B1 or an alternate form which contains the same information, that the applicant is duly licensed or certified, that his/her license or certification has never been suspended or revoked, and that so far as the record of the agency is concerned, the applicant is entitled to its endorsement;~~
- ~~2. The nature of disciplinary actions, if any, taken against the applicants license or certificate;~~

- ~~3. If the applicant's license or certification was based on the ASWB, Advanced Level C, Advanced or Clinical examination:
 - ~~a. The date of the applicant's license or certification;~~
 - ~~b. The score attained on the examination; and~~
 - ~~c. Documentation of the requirements for licensure in the other jurisdiction which are currently in effect and which were in effect at the time the license was issued; or~~~~
- ~~4. If the applicant's license or certification was based on an examination other than the ASWB, Advanced Level C, Advanced or Clinical Examination:
 - ~~a. The date of the applicant's license or certification;~~
 - ~~b. The score attained on the examination; and~~
 - ~~c. Documentation of the requirements for licensure in the other jurisdiction which are currently in effect and which were in effect at the time the license was issued and that the examination taken is equivalent to the ASWB, Advanced Level C, Advanced or Clinical Examination; or~~~~
- ~~5. If the applicant's license or certification was not based on the ASWB, Advanced Level C, Advanced or Clinical examination, or an equivalent examination, the applicant must take the ASWB Advanced or Clinical examination.~~

~~94-005.02C Examination: If the applicant is intending to provide mental health services, and the applicant's license or certification was not based on the Advanced Level C or the ASWB Clinical examination, the applicant must take the ASWB Clinical examination.~~

~~94-005.02D Board Review: The Board will review the documents submitted to determine if the applicant's license or certificate issued by the other jurisdiction was based upon standards which are equal to those maintained in social work by Nebraska and will make a recommendation to the Department.~~

~~94-005.02E Pro-rated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the Department will collect \$25, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date. If the applicant is only applying for a social work certificate and not a mental health practice license, the Department will also collect the Licensee Assistance Program fee of \$1.~~

~~94-005.02F Administrative Penalty/Other Action: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.~~

~~94-005.02G Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for license. The division will issue a letter of authority to individuals who hold a license and a certification stating they may use the title "Licensed Clinical Social Worker".~~

~~94-005.03 INITIAL CERTIFICATION AS A PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR: Any person who represents himself/herself as a certified professional counselor must be certified as a certified professional counselor.~~

~~94-005.03A Requirements: An applicant for certification to represent oneself as a certified professional counselor on the basis of examination must:~~

- ~~1. Be licensed, or qualify for licensure and have made application for a license as a mental health practitioner;~~
- ~~2. Have received a master's degree from an approved educational program as specified in 172 NAC 94-002;~~
- ~~3. Have 3,000 hours of experience in professional counseling, as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, after receipt of a master's degree; and~~
- ~~4. Have passed the National Board of Certified Counselor's National Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCMHCE) with a minimum score set at the National Cut Score.~~

~~94-005.03B Application Process:~~ The following must be submitted to the Department:

- ~~1. A complete application on Attachment A, or an alternate form which contains the same information. Only applications which are complete will be considered;~~
 - ~~2. An official transcript from an approved educational program showing receipt of a master's degree or certified documentation of receipt of a master's degree from an approved educational program;~~
 - ~~3. Documentation of 3,000 hours of experience in professional counseling after receipt of a master's degree;~~
 - ~~4. Official documentation of the examination score;~~
 - ~~5. If necessary, a completed request for special accommodations~~
- ~~Attachment G attached to these regulations and incorporated by this reference or an alternate form which contains the same information;~~
- ~~6. One current photograph for the purpose of identification and admission into the examination;~~
 - ~~7. Attestation by the applicant:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; and~~~~
 - ~~8. The required certification fee.~~

~~94-005.03C Examination Information:~~ The Department will notify the applicant of examination eligibility within 30 days of receipt of the application for certification and will forward to the applicant a schedule of the date, time and place of the examination, and any additional information necessary for taking the examination.

~~94-005.03D Pro-rated Fee:~~ When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the Department will collect \$25 and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

~~94-005.03E Administrative Penalty/Other Action:~~ An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

~~94-005.03F Department Review:~~ The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for license. The division will issue a letter of authority to individuals who hold a license and a certification stating they may use the title "Licensed Professional Counselor".

~~94-005.04 RECIPROCIITY—CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR (BASED
ON A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE ISSUED IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION)~~

~~94-005.04A Requirements: An applicant for certification as a certified
professional counselor from another jurisdiction must:~~

- ~~1. Qualify for licensure and have made application for a license as a
mental health practitioner;~~
- ~~2. Have received a master's degree from an approved educational
program as specified in 172 NAC 94-002;~~
- ~~3. Have 3,000 hours of experience in professional counseling as
defined in 172 NAC 94-002, after receipt of a master's degree;~~
- ~~4. Have been in the active and continuous practice under the license or
certification by examination in the State, Territory, or District of
Columbia from which s/he comes for at least one year; and have
been actively engaged in the practice under such license or
certificate or in an accepted residency or graduate training program
for at least one of the three years immediately preceding the
application for certification by reciprocity;~~
- ~~5. Have passed the NBCC/NCE or NBCC/NCMHCE examination or an
equivalent examination with a minimum score set at the National Cut
Score; and~~
- ~~6. Have attained at least the age of majority and have good moral
character.~~

~~94-005.04B Application Process: The following must be submitted to the
Department:~~

- ~~1. A complete application on Attachment B or an alternate form which
contains the same information. Only applications which are complete
will be considered;~~
- ~~2. An official transcript from an approved educational program showing
receipt of a master's degree and/or certified documentation of receipt
of a master's degree from an approved educational program;~~
- ~~3. Documentation of 3,000 hours of experience in professional
counseling after receipt of a master's degree;~~
- ~~4. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority, examples of
evidence are:
a. Driver's license;
b. Birth certificate;
c. Marriage license;
d. Official transcript which provides date of birth; or
e. Other similar documentation;~~
- ~~5. If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's license by
another state, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including
charges and disposition;~~
- ~~6. If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor:
a. Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;
b. Copies of arrest records;
c. BAC level (if conviction was alcohol related);
d. A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;
e. All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the
conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if~~

~~treatment was obtained and/or required; and
f. A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions
and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation;~~

- ~~7. Attestation by the applicant:~~
- ~~a. That s/he has not represented herself/himself as certified in
Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days represented herself/himself as
certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate;~~

- ~~8. The required certification fee; and~~
- ~~9. Documentation that the applicant has been actively engaged in the
practice of professional counseling or in an accepted residency or
graduate training program for at least one year of the three years
immediately preceding application for certification by reciprocity; and
that such licensee or certificate holder has been in the active and
continuous practice under license by examination in the State,
territory, or District of Columbia from which s/he comes for at least
one year.~~

94-005.04B1 ~~The applicant must have the licensing or certifying agency submit
to~~

~~the Department a certification of licensure or certification on Attachment B1 or an
alternate form which contains the same information. The certification must
certify:~~

- ~~1. That the applicant is duly licensed or certified, that his/her
license or certificate has never been suspended or revoked, and that
so far as the record of the agency is concerned, the applicant is
entitled to its endorsement;~~
- ~~2. The nature of disciplinary actions, if any, taken against the
applicant's
license or certificate;~~
- ~~3. If the applicant's license or certification was based on the NBCC/NCE
or NBCC/NCMHCE examination:
a. The date of the applicant's license or certification;
b. The score attained on the examination; and
c. Documentation of the requirements for licensure in the other
jurisdiction which are currently in effect and which were in
effect at the time the license was issued; or~~
- ~~4. If the applicant's license or certification was based on an examination
other than the NBCC/NCE or NBCC/NCMHCE examination:
a. The date of the applicant's license or certification;
b. The score attained on the examination;
c. Documentation of the requirements for licensure or certification
in the other jurisdiction which are currently in effect and which
were in effect at the time the license was issued; and
d. Documentation that the examination taken is equivalent to the
NBCC/NCE or NBCC/NCMHCE examination.~~

94-005.04C Examination: ~~If the applicant's license or certification was not based
on the NBCC/NCE or NBCC/NCMHCE examination, or an equivalent
examination, the applicant must take the NBCC/NCE or NBCC/NCMHCE
examination.~~

~~94-005.04D Board Review:~~ The Board will review the documents submitted to determine if the applicant's license or certificate issued by the other jurisdiction was based upon requirements which are equal to those maintained in professional counseling in Nebraska and will make a recommendation to the Department.

~~94-005.04E Pro-rated Fee:~~ When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the Department will collect \$25 and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

~~94-005.04F Administrative Penalty/Other Action:~~ An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

~~94-005.04G Department Review:~~ The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for license. The division will issue a letter of authority to individuals who hold a license and a certification stating they may use the title "Licensed Professional Counselor".

~~94-005.05 INITIAL CERTIFICATION - MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY:~~ Any person who represents himself/herself as a certified marriage and family therapist, must be certified as a marriage and family therapist.

~~94-005.05A Requirements:~~ An applicant for a certificate to represent oneself as a certified marriage and family therapist by examination must:

- ~~1. Be licensed, or qualify for licensure and have made application for a license as a mental health practitioner;~~
- ~~2. Have received a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program approved by the Board or a graduate degree in a field determined by the Board to be related to marriage and family therapy and graduate-level course work determined by the Board to be equivalent to a master's degree in marriage and family therapy as defined in 172 NAC 94-002;~~
- ~~3. Have received at least 3,000 hours of experience in marriage and family therapy under a qualified supervisor as defined in 172 NAC 94-002 following receipt of the graduate degree;~~
- ~~4. Pass the AMFTRB certification examination with a minimum score set at the National Pass Point; and~~
- ~~5. Have attained at least the age of majority and have good moral character.~~

~~94-005.05B Application Process:~~ The following must be submitted to the Department:

- ~~1. A complete application on Attachment A, or an alternate form which contains the same information. Only applications which are complete will be considered;~~
- ~~2. An official transcript from an approved educational program showing receipt of a master's degree or certified documentation of receipt of a master's degree from an approved educational program;~~
- ~~3. Documentation of 3,000 hours of supervised experience in marriage and family therapy after receipt of a master's degree on a form provided by the Department as Attachment A1, or an alternate form which contains the same information;~~
- ~~4. Official documentation of the examination score;~~
- ~~5. Attestation by the applicant;~~

- a. ~~That s/he has not represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; or~~
- b. ~~To the actual number of days represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; and~~

~~6. The required certification fee.~~

~~94-005.05C Pro-rated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the Department will collect \$25 and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.~~

~~94-005.05D Administrative Penalty/Other Action: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.~~

~~94-005.05E Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for license. The division will issue a letter of authority to individuals who hold a license and a certification stating they may use the title "Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist".~~

~~94-005.06 RECIPROCIITY - MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST (BASED ON A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE ISSUED IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION)~~

~~94-005.06A Requirements: An applicant for certification to represent oneself as a certified marriage and family therapist based on a credential issued by another jurisdiction must:~~

- ~~1. Qualify for licensure and have made application for a license as a mental health practitioner;~~
- ~~2. Provide documentation that the standards regulating marriage and family therapy in the other jurisdiction are equivalent to those maintained in Nebraska;~~
- ~~3. Have received a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program approved by the Board or a graduate degree in a field determined by the Board to be related to marriage and family therapy and graduate-level course work determined by the Board to be equivalent to a master's degree in marriage and family therapy as defined in 172 NAC 94-002;~~
- ~~4. Pass the AMFTRB certification examination with a minimum score set at the National Pass Point;~~
- ~~5. Have attained at least the age of majority and have good moral character; and~~
- ~~6. Have been in the active and continuous practice under license or certification by examination in the State, Territory, or District of Columbia from which s/he comes for at least one year; and have been actively engaged in the practice under such license or certificate or in an accepted residency or graduate training program for at least one of the three years immediately preceding the application for certification by reciprocity.~~

~~94-006.05B Application Process: The following must be submitted to the Department:~~

- ~~1. A complete application on Attachment B or an alternate form which contains the same information. Only applications which are complete will be considered;~~

- ~~2. An official transcript from an approved educational program showing receipt of a master's or doctoral degree and/or certified documentation of receipt of a master's or doctoral degree from an approved educational program;~~
- ~~3. Official documentation of having been actively engaged in the practice of marriage and family therapy for at least 3,000 hours after receipt of a master's degree;~~
- ~~4. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority, examples of evidence are:
 - ~~a. Driver's license;~~
 - ~~b. Birth certificate;~~
 - ~~c. Marriage license;~~
 - ~~d. Official transcript which provides date of birth; or~~
 - ~~e. Other similar documentation;~~~~
- ~~5. If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's license by another state, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition;~~
- ~~6. If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor:
 - ~~a. Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~b. Copies of arrest records;~~
 - ~~c. BAC level (if conviction was alcohol related);~~
 - ~~d. A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~e. All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~f. A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation;~~~~
- ~~7. Attestation by the applicant:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate;~~~~
- ~~8. The required certification fee; and~~
- ~~9. Documentation that the applicant has been actively engaged in the practice of marriage and family therapy or in an accepted residency or graduate training program for at least one year of the three years immediately preceding application for certification by reciprocity; and that such licensee or certificate holder has been in the active and continuous practice under license by examination in the State, territory, or District of Columbia from which s/he comes for at least one year.~~

~~94-006.05B1 The applicant must have the licensing or certifying agency submit to the Department a certification of licensure or certification on Attachment B2 or an alternate form which contains the same information. The certification must certify:~~

- ~~1. That the applicant is duly licensed or certified, that his/her license or certificate has never been suspended or revoked, and that so far as the record of the agency is concerned, the applicant is entitled to its endorsement;~~

- ~~2. The nature of disciplinary actions, if any, taken against the applicant's license or certificate;~~
- ~~3. If the applicant's license or certification was based on the AMFTRB Certification examination:~~
- ~~a. The date of the applicant's license or certification;~~
 - ~~b. The score attained on the examination; and~~
 - ~~c. Documentation of the requirements for licensure in the other jurisdiction which are currently in effect and which were in effect at the time the license was issued; or~~
- ~~4. If the applicant's license or certification was based on an examination other than the AMFTRB Certification examination:~~
- ~~a. The date of the applicant's license or certification;~~
 - ~~b. The score attained on the examination;~~
 - ~~c. Documentation of the requirements for licensure or certification in the other jurisdiction which are currently in effect and which were in effect at the time the license was issued; and~~
 - ~~d. Documentation that the examination taken is equivalent to the AMFTRB Certification examination.~~

~~94-005.06C Examination: If the applicant's license or certification was not based on the AMFTRB Certification examination, or an equivalent examination, the applicant must take the AMFTRB Certification examination.~~

~~94-005.06D Board Review: The Board will review the documents submitted to determine if the applicant's license or certificate issued by the other jurisdiction was based upon requirements which are equal to those maintained in marriage and family therapy in Nebraska and will make a recommendation to the Department.~~

~~94-005.06E Pro-rated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the Department will collect \$25 and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.~~

~~94-005.06F Administrative Penalty/Other Action: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.~~

~~94-005.06G Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for license applications for certification. The division will issue a letter of authority to individuals who hold a license and a certification stating they may use the title "Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist".~~

~~94-006 PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION AS A MASTER SOCIAL WORKER (PCMSW) REQUIREMENTS: A person who needs to obtain the required 3,000 hours of supervised experience in social work as specified in 172 NAC 94-002 in order to qualify for a certification as a master social worker must obtain a provisional certification as a master social worker before beginning his/her supervised experience. Any hours earned prior to the receipt of the provisional certificate may not be considered for a certificate as a master social worker. The criteria for the issuance of a provisional certificate and the documentation required by the Department and the Board are set forth below and only applies to those earning hours in Nebraska.~~

~~94-006.01 Requirements: A person applying for only a provisional certification as a master social worker must:~~

- ~~1. Have a master's or doctorate degree from an approved social work program;~~
- ~~2. Have arranged supervision with a qualified supervisor in Nebraska; and~~
- ~~3. Have attained at least the age of majority and be of good moral character.~~

~~94-006.02 Application Process: The following must be submitted to the Department:~~

- ~~1. An application for a provisional master social work certificate. The application may be submitted on Attachment C attached to these regulations and incorporated by this reference or an alternate form that contains the same information;~~
- ~~2. Evidence of an assigned qualified supervisor;~~
- ~~3. Official Transcript verifying a master's or doctorate degree from an approved social work master's program;~~
- ~~4. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority, examples of evidence are:
 - ~~a. Driver's license;~~
 - ~~b. Birth certificate;~~
 - ~~c. Marriage license;~~
 - ~~d. Official transcript which provides date of birth; or~~
 - ~~e. Other similar documentation;~~~~
- ~~5. If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's license by another state, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition;~~
- ~~6. If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor:
 - ~~a. Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~b. Copies of arrest records;~~
 - ~~c. BAC level (if conviction was alcohol related);~~
 - ~~d. A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~e. All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~f. A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation;~~~~
- ~~7. Attestation by the applicant:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; and~~~~
- ~~8. The required provisional license fee.~~

~~94-006.03 Expiration of a Provisional Certificate: A provisional master social work certificate will expire upon the following conditions:~~

- ~~1. Termination of Supervision Agreement or Change in Supervisor;~~
- ~~2. Receipt of the certificate as a master social worker or 5 years after the date of issuance, whichever comes first.~~

~~An individual who does not complete the hours required for certification within the specified 5 year period may re-apply one time for another provisional certificate.~~

~~94-006.04 Client Notification: An individual who holds a provisional master social worker certificate must inform all clients that s/he holds a provisional certificate and is practicing social work under supervision and must identify the supervisor. Failure to make such a disclosure is a ground for discipline as set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-147.~~

~~94-006.05 Change of Supervisor: An individual who changes his/her supervisor or adds a new supervisor must submit an application within 30 days following the change. The application may be submitted on Attachment D attached to these regulations and incorporated by this reference or an alternate form which includes all information as specified in 172 NAC 94-006.01 and 94-006.02. A fee is not required for such change.~~

~~94-006.06 Termination of Supervision: If a supervisor or provisional licensee terminates supervision, s/he must notify the Department in writing immediately of the date of termination. The Department will record said termination date in the record.~~

~~94-006.07 Administrative Penalty/Other Action: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.~~

~~94-006.08 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for license.~~

~~94-007 CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER: An individual who practices pursuant to 172 NAC 94-002 (definition of social work) is not required to be licensed or certified as long as s/he does not represent himself/herself as a mental health practitioner or as a social worker. An individual may be certified as a social worker if s/he practices pursuant to 172 NAC 94-002.~~

~~94-007.01 INITIAL CERTIFICATION~~

~~94-007.01A Requirements: An applicant for certification as a certified social worker must:~~

- ~~1. Have a baccalaureate degree, master's degree, or doctorate degree in social work from an approved education program; and~~
- ~~2. Have attained at least the age of majority and have good moral character.~~

~~94-007.01B Application Process: The following must be submitted to the Department:~~

- ~~1. A complete application on Attachment E attached to these regulations and incorporated by this reference or an alternate form which contains the same information. Only applications which are complete will be considered;~~
- ~~2. An official transcript from an approved education program showing receipt of either the baccalaureate or master's degree in social work and/or certified proof of receipt of either a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work from an approved education program;~~
- ~~3. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority;~~
- ~~4. If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's license by another state, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition;~~
- ~~5. If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor:
 - ~~a. Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~b. Copies of arrest records;~~
 - ~~c. BAC level (if conviction was alcohol related);~~
 - ~~d. A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~e. All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~f. A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation;~~~~
- ~~6. Attestation by the applicant:~~

- ~~_____ a. That s/he has not represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; or~~
- ~~_____ b. To the actual number of days represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; and~~
- ~~_____ 7. The required certification fee.~~

~~94-007.01C Pro-rated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the Department will collect \$25, the Licensee Assistance Program fee of \$1, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.~~

~~94-007.01D Administrative Penalty/Other Action: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.~~

~~94-007.01E Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for license.~~

94-007.02 RECIPROCITY - BASED ON A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION:

~~94-007.02A Requirements: An applicant for certification to practice social work as a certified social worker by another jurisdiction must:~~

- ~~_____ 1. Have a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work from an approved education program;~~
- ~~_____ 2. Have attained at least the age of majority and have good moral character; and~~
- ~~_____ 3. Have been in the active and continuous practice under license or certification in the State, Territory, or District of Columbia from which s/he comes for at least one year; and have been actively engaged in the practice under such license or certificate or in an accepted residency or graduate training program for at least one of the three years immediately preceding the application for certification.~~

~~94-007.02B Application Process: The following must be submitted to the Department:~~

- ~~_____ 1. A complete application on Attachment E, or an alternate form which contains the same information. Only applications which are complete will be considered;~~
- ~~_____ 2. An official transcript from an approved education program showing receipt of either the baccalaureate or master's degree in social work and/or certified proof of receipt of either a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work from an approved education program;~~
- ~~_____ 3. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority, examples of evidence are:
 - ~~_____ a. Driver's license;~~
 - ~~_____ b. Birth certificate;~~
 - ~~_____ c. Marriage license;~~
 - ~~_____ d. Official transcript which provides date of birth; or~~
 - ~~_____ e. Other similar documentation;~~~~
- ~~_____ 4. If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's license by another state, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition;~~

- ~~5. If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor:
 - ~~a. Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~b. Copies of arrest records;~~
 - ~~c. BAC level (if conviction was alcohol related);~~
 - ~~c. A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~d. All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;~~
 - ~~e. A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and~~
 - ~~f. Documentation that the applicant has been in the active and continuous practice of social work for at least one year of the three years immediately preceding the date of application for a Nebraska certificate;~~~~
- ~~6. The required certification fee; and~~
- ~~7. Attestation by the applicant:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days represented herself/himself as certified in Nebraska prior to the application for a certificate.~~~~

~~94-007.02B1 The applicant must have the licensing or certifying agency submit to the Department a certification of licensure or certification on Attachment E1 or an alternate form which contains the same information. The certification must certify:~~

- ~~1. That the applicant is duly licensed or certified, that his/her license or certificate has never been suspended or revoked, and that so far as the record of the agency is concerned, the applicant is entitled to its endorsement;~~
- ~~2. The nature of disciplinary actions, if any, taken against the applicant's license or certificate;~~
- ~~3. The date of the applicant's license or certification; and~~
- ~~4. Documentation of the requirements for licensure in the other jurisdiction which are currently in effect and which were in effect at the time the license was issued.~~

~~94-007.02C Board Review: The Board will review the documents submitted to determine if the applicant's license or certificate issued by the other jurisdiction was based upon requirements which are equal to those maintained in social work in Nebraska and will make a recommendation to the Department.~~

~~94-007.02D Administrative Penalty/Other Action: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.~~

~~94-007.02E Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for license.~~

94-012 EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY

94-012.01 Mental Health Practice Examination: An applicant who by reason of educational background is eligible for certification as a Certified Master Social Worker, a Certified Professional Counselor, or a Certified Marriage and Family Therapist must take and pass the appropriate certification examination; those not eligible for certification in an associated

field must take and pass the NBCC/NCE, NBCC/NCMHCE, or other examination as determined by the Board to be equivalent.

94-012.01A Social Work: An individual who holds a master's or doctorate degree in social work from an approved education program and is applying for the LMHP or LIMHP must take the Clinical Category of the ASWB examination and pass with a minimum score set at the national pass point. An applicant applying only for the CMSW, may take either the Advanced Generalist Examination or the Clinical Category of the ASWB examination and pass with a minimum score set at the national pass score.

94-012.01B Professional Counseling: An individual who by reason of educational background is qualified to be certified as a certified professional counselor must take the National Board of Certified Counselor's National Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NBCC/NCMHCE) and pass with a minimum score set at the national pass score.

94-012.01C Marriage and Family Therapy: An individual who by reason of educational background is qualified to be certified as a marriage and family therapist must take the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) examination and pass with a minimum score set at the national pass score.

94-012.01D Other Examination: Any other examination determined by the Board to be equivalent with a minimum score determined by the Board.

94-012.02 Examination Eligibility and Application Process: To be eligible to take the licensure examination, an applicant must:

1. Have received a master's or doctorate degree from an approved program as set out in 172 NAC 94-002, item 6, 7, 8 or 9. The applicant must submit to the Department an official transcript showing proof of the required degree and coursework if required;
2. Submit a completed application requesting approval to test; and
3. Submit a completed request for special accommodations, if special testing accommodations are needed by the applicant.

~~94-010 RENEWAL PROCEDURES: All licenses and/or certificates issued by the Department pursuant to the Act and these regulations expire on September 1st of each even-numbered year. An individual who wishes to renew his/her associated certificate must first renew his/her license to practice mental health. An individual who places his/her license to practice mental health on inactive or lapsed status must also place his/her associated certificate on inactive or lapsed status. This does not apply to individuals who practice within the confines of 172 NAC 94-002 (definition of social work) and holds only a certificate as a master social worker or a certificate as a social worker.~~

~~94-010.01 Renewal Process: Any licensee/certificate holder who wishes to renew his/her~~

credential must:

- ~~1. Meet the continuing competency requirements as specified in 172 NAC 94-014;~~
- ~~3. Pay the renewal fee as prescribed in 172 NAC 94-019; and~~
- ~~4. Respond to the following questions:
 - ~~d. Has your license/certificate in any profession in another state been revoked, suspended, limited, or disciplined in any manner?~~
 - ~~e. Have you been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?~~These questions relate to the time period since the last renewal of the license/certificate or during the time period since initial credentialing in Nebraska if such occurred within the two years prior to the license/certificate expiration date;~~
- ~~5. Cause to be submitted to the Department:
 - ~~h. The renewal notice;~~
 - ~~i. The renewal fee;~~
 - ~~j. Attestation of completing 32 hours of continuing education earned within 24 months of the date of expiration or application for waiver of continuing education. Attestation to meeting continuing competency requirements satisfies the submission of the documentation requirement of Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-110;~~
 - ~~k. If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's license/certificate by another state, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~l. If the licensee/certificate holder has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor:
 - ~~(6) Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~(7) Copies of arrest records;~~
 - ~~(8) A letter from the licensee/certificate holder explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~(9) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~(10) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the licensee/certificate holder is currently on probation.~~~~~~

~~94-010.02 First Notice: At least 30 days before September 1st of each even-numbered year, the Department will send a renewal notice by means of regular mail to each licensee/certificate holder at their last place of residence as noted in the records of the Department. It is the responsibility of the licensee/certificate holder prior to the renewal period to notify the Department of any name and/or address changes.~~

~~94-010.02A The renewal notice will specify:~~

- ~~1. The name of the licensee/certificate holder;~~
- ~~2. The licensee/certificate holder's last known address of record;~~
- ~~3. The license number;~~
- ~~6. The expiration date of the license;~~
- ~~7. The renewal fee as prescribed in 172 NAC 94-019;~~
- ~~8. The number of continuing education hours required for renewal; and~~
- ~~7. The option to place the license on either inactive or lapsed status.~~

~~94-010.02B The licensee/certificate holder must apply for renewal by submitting to the Department:~~

1. The renewal notice;
2. The renewal fee;
3. The licensee/certificate holder's social security number;
4. Attestation of completing 32 hours of continuing education earned within 24 months of the date of expiration or application for waiver of continuing education; and
5. Documentation relating to misdemeanor or felony conviction(s) or licensure revocation, suspension, limitation or disciplinary action (if applicable).

~~94-010.02C~~ If the licensee/certificate holder wishes to place his/her license on either inactive or lapsed status s/he must:

1. Request that his/her license be placed on inactive status by submitting to the Department:
 - a. The renewal notice with a check in the box marked inactive; and
 - b. The fee of \$25; or
2. Request that his/her license be placed on lapsed status by submitting to the Department:
 - a. The renewal notice with a check in the box marked lapsed.

~~94-010.02D~~ The Department will notify the licensee/certificate holder in writing of the acceptance or denial of the request to allow the license to be placed on lapsed or inactive status.

~~94-010.03 Second Notice:~~ The Department will send to each licensee/certificate holder who fails to renew his/her license or place the license on inactive or lapsed status in response to the first notice, a second notice of renewal in accordance with the requirements of 172 NAC 94-010.01 that specify:

1. That the licensee/certificate holder failed to pay the renewal fee;
3. That the license has expired;
4. That the licensee is subject to an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020 if s/he practices after the expiration date;
5. That upon receipt of the renewal fee, together with an additional late fee of \$25, and documentation of continuing competency hours within that time, no order of revocation will be entered; and
5. That upon failure to receive \$25 in addition to the regular renewal fee, and documentation of continuing competency hours, the license will be revoked as specified in 172 NAC 94-013.

~~94-010.03A~~ The licensee/certificate holder must apply for renewal by submitting to the Department:

1. The renewal notice;
2. The renewal fee and the additional late fee of \$25;
3. The licensee/certificate holder's social security number;
4. Attestation by the licensee/certificate holder:
 - a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since the expiration of his/her license; or
 - b. To the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska since the expiration of his/her license;
5. Attestation of completing 32 hours of continuing education earned within 24 months of the date of expiration or application for waiver of continuing education; and
6. Documentation relating to misdemeanor or felony conviction(s) or licensure

~~revocation, suspension, limitation, or disciplinary action (if applicable).~~

~~94-010.03A1~~ If the licensee/certificate holder wishes to place his/her license on either inactive or lapsed status s/he must:

- ~~1. Request that his/her license be placed on inactive status by submitting to the Department:
 - a. The renewal notice with a check in the box marked inactive; and
 - b. The fee of \$25; or~~
- ~~2. Request that his/her license be placed on lapsed status by submitting to the Department:
 - a. The renewal notice with a check in the box marked lapsed.~~

~~94-010.03A2~~ The Department will notify the licensee/certificate holder in writing of the acceptance or denial of the request to allow the license to be placed on lapsed or inactive status.

~~94-010.04~~ When any licensee/certificate holder fails, within 30 days of expiration of a license, to pay the renewal fee, to submit documentation of continuing competency, and/or to pay an additional late fee of \$25, the Department will automatically revoke the license without further notice or hearing and make proper record of the revocation.

~~94-010.05~~ Failure to meet the continuing competency requirement for renewal within 30 days of expiration of his/her license will constitute non-renewal of a license, unless a waiver of continuing competency is granted or the license is placed on inactive or lapsed status. When any licensee/certificate holder fails, within 30 days of expiration of a license, to meet the continuing competency requirements for renewal and to pay an additional late fee of \$25, the Department revokes the license after notice and opportunity for hearing. Hearings held before the Department will be conducted in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920, Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, Rules of and Procedure of the Department.

~~94-010.06~~ When the licensee/certificate holder has given Department that s/he desires to have the license lapse or be placed on inactive status upon expiration, 172 NAC 94-010.04 and 94-010.05 will not apply.

~~94-010.07~~ The Department may refuse to renew a license for falsification of any information submitted for renewal of a license. The refusal will be made pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-149 to 71-155 and 184 NAC 1, Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Department.

~~94-011~~ AUDIT OF CONTINUING COMPETENCY: The Board may select in a random manner a sample of the license and/or certificate renewal applications for audit of continuing education credits. Each licensee and/or certificate holder is responsible for maintaining in his/her personal files such certificates or records of credit from continuing education activities received from providers. A licensee and/or certificate holder selected for audit will be required to produce documentation of his/her attendance at those continuing education activities listed on his/her renewal application.

~~94-011.01~~ Audit Requirements:

- ~~1. When selected for audit, the licensee and/or certificate holder must provide satisfactory documentation of attendance at or participation in continuing education activities attested to on the licensee's and/or certificate holder's renewal form. Satisfactory documentation includes, but not be limited to, certifications of attendance, certified attendance rosters, evidence of publication, or letters from sponsors of continuing education verifying attendance.~~
- ~~2. The Board reserves the right to audit the continuing competency of any licensee and/or certificate holder by notifying the licensee and/or certificate holder and requesting the licensee and/or certificate holder to produce within 30 days of mailing documents verifying attendance at continuing education programs.~~

- ~~3. Continuing education hours for which no documentation of attendance is produced will not be included in the calculation of the total of continuing education hours earned.~~
- ~~4. Failure to comply with the audit will result in non-renewal of the license and/or certificate.~~

~~94-012 WAIVER OF CONTINUING COMPETENCY: The Department, on the recommendation of the Board, may waive the continuing competency requirements, in whole or in part, for any two-year period or for the period of time since the license and/or certificate was last issued when a licensee and/or certificate holder submits documentation that circumstances beyond his/her control prevented him or her from completing such requirements.~~

~~94-012.02A Circumstances include that the licensee and/or certificate holder must:~~

- ~~1. Hold a Nebraska license and/or certificate but is not engaged in mental health practice or an associated profession; or~~
- ~~2. Have been in the service of the regular armed forces of the United States during any part of the period since his/her certificate was issued or last renewed; or~~
- ~~3. Be a legal resident of another state, territory, or the District of Columbia and have not practiced as a licensed mental health practitioner in the State of Nebraska since his/her license was issued or last renewed; or~~
 - ~~a. If the waiver is requested for an associated certificate, the certificate holder must be a legal resident of another state, territory or the District of Columbia and have not practiced the associated profession in the State of Nebraska since his/her certificate was issued or last renewed; or~~
- ~~4. Have been suffering from a serious or disabling illness or physical disability which prevented completion of the required number of continuing education hours since his/her license and/or certificate was issued or last renewed; or~~
- ~~5. Have been first licensed and/or certified within twenty-four months immediately preceding the license and/or certification renewal date.~~

~~94-012.02B Application: Any licensee and/or certificate holder who seeks a waiver of continuing competency must apply to the Board for a recommendation to the Department to waive the continuing education. This application must be made on the renewal notice; and it must be received by the Division on or before September 1 of the year the license and/or certification is subject to renewal.~~

- ~~1. The licensee and/or certificate holder must submit:~~
 - ~~a. A request, on the renewal form, for waiver of the continuing education; and~~
 - ~~b. A statement from a physician stating that the licensee and/or certificate holder was injured or ill, the duration of the illness or injury and the recovery period; and that the licensee and/or certificate holder was unable to attend continuing education activities during that period; or~~
 - ~~c. Official documentation stating dates of service in the armed forces.~~

~~94-012.02C The Department may, upon the recommendation of the Board, grant or deny an application for waiver of the continuing education requirements.~~

- ~~1. When the Department determines to deny an application for waiver of the continuing education requirements, it will send to the applicant by certified mail to the last name and address of record in the Department, a notice setting forth the reasons for the denial determination.~~
 - ~~a. The applicant has 30 days from the date of receipt of the denial notice to make a written request to the Department for an appeal. The appeal will be conducted in accordance with 184 NAC 1, Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Department.~~

~~_____ b. The Department will issue at the conclusion of the appeal pursuant to 184 NAC 1 a final order setting forth the results of the appeal.~~

~~_____ 2. When the Department determines to grant a waiver of the continuing education, the applicant will be notified within 30 days of receipt of the application.~~

~~94-013 LICENSE AND/OR CERTIFICATION REVOCATION FOR FAILURE TO MEET RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS: The Department may revoke a credential when the credential holder fails to meet the renewal requirements.~~

~~94-013.01 Revocation for Nonpayment of Renewal Fee or Late fee, or Failure to Submit Documentation of Continuing Competency within Thirty Days of Expiration of the Credential~~

~~94-013.01A When a credential holder fails to pay the required renewal fee, to submit documentation of continuing competency, and/or to pay a late fee of \$25 and fails to request that his/her credential be placed on either inactive or lapsed status within 30 days of its expiration, the Department automatically revokes the credential without further notice or hearing.~~

~~_____ 94-013.01A1 A post revocation notice will be sent which will specify that:~~

- ~~_____ 1. The credential holder was given a first and final notice of renewal requirements and the respective dates for these notices;~~
- ~~_____ 2. The credential failed to renew the credential or to request that his/her credential be placed on inactive or lapsed status;~~
- ~~_____ 3. The Department has revoked the credential; and~~
- ~~_____ 4. The credential holder has a right to request reinstatement of the credential.~~

~~_____ 94-013.02 Revocation for Failure to Meet Continuing Competency Requirements~~

~~94-013.02A When a credential holder fails within 30 days of the expiration of his/her credential to meet the continuing competency requirement, the Department revokes his/her credential after notice and opportunity for a hearing.~~

~~94-013.02A1 The revocation notice for failure to meet continuing competency requirements specifies that:~~

- ~~_____ 1. The credential holder was given a first and second notice of failure to meet the continuing competency requirement and the respective dates of each notice;~~
- ~~_____ 2. The credential holder failed to meet continuing competency renewal requirements or to have his/her credential timely placed on inactive or lapsed status;~~
- ~~_____ 3. The credential has been revoked for failure to meet continuing competency requirements within thirty days after expiration of the credential and that the revocation will become final unless a request for hearing is filed by the credential holder with the Department within 30 days of date of receipt of the notice; and~~
- ~~_____ 4. The credential holder has a right to request reinstatement of the credential after revocation.~~

~~94-014 CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSEES AND/OR CERTIFICATE HOLDERS~~

~~94-014.01 ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION:~~

~~94-013 CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS: Each person holding an active credential within the state must, on or before the date of expiration of the credential (September 1 of~~

even-numbered years) comply with the continuing competency requirements for his/her profession, unless the requirements are waived in accordance with 172 NAC 94-014.03 and 94-014.04.

The Board of Mental Health Practice does not pre-approve offerings, but may accept as continuing education for licensure and certification renewal learning experiences as set out in 172 NAC 94-014.022013, provided they are planned and conducted for mental health practitioners, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, or social workers, and that they are related to mental health practice. Continuing education for individuals who hold a social work certificate, but are not licensed as a mental health practitioner, must relate to the practice of social work.

~~94-014.02-94-013.01~~ General Requirements: On or before September 1 of each even numbered year, each licensed ~~independent mental health practitioner, licensed mental health practitioner, certified master social worker, certified social worker, certified professional counselor, and certified marriage and family therapist who is in active practice in the State of Nebraska must:~~1. Complete 32 hours of approved continuing education during the proceeding 24 month period.- Additional hours earned during this period which are above and beyond the required 32 hours can not be utilized for subsequent renewals;

1. a. Ethics: All credential holders must complete at least 4 hours of the 32 hours relating to the credential holder's practice ethics.
2. LIMHP's: Licensees who hold a LIMHP must complete at least 6 hours of the 32 hours relating to diagnosis and treatment of major mental disorders.
3. MHP and Associated Certificate: An individual who holds a mental health practice license and an associated certificate(s) is not required to earn hours for each additional certificate s/he holds;
4. b. Professional Counseling: A person who holds an associated certificate in professional counseling is allowed to count any continuing education hours earned for the renewal of the professional counselor certification as hours approved to renew the mental health practitioner license;
5. c. Social Work: A person who holds an associated certificate in social work is allowed to count any continuing education hours earned for the renewal of the social worker certification as hours approved to renew the mental health practitioner license;
6. d. Marriage and Family Therapy: A person who holds an associated certificate in marriage and family therapy is allowed to count any continuing education hours earned for the renewal of the marriage and family therapist certification as hours approved to renew the mental health practitioner license;

~~2.~~ 94-013.02 Continuing Education Hour Defined: Continuing Education (CE) Hour or Credit is defined as follows:

1. Academic credit: An individual may accumulate up to 30 hours of continuing education per biennial renewal period:
 - a. 1 semester hour of academic credit equals 15 continuing education credit hours. 1 semester hour credit audited equals 8 hours of continuing education;
 - b. 1 quarter hour of academic credit equals 10 continuing education credit hours. 1 quarter hour credit audited equals 5 hours of continuing education; and
 - c. 1 trimester hour of academic credit equals 14 continuing education credit hours. 1 trimester hour credit audited equals 7 hours of continuing education.
2. Dissertations: An individual may accumulate up to 30 hours of continuing education per biennial renewal period.
3. Teaching: Hours granted for teaching a college/university course are calculated as stated in 94-013.02, item 1; 30 of the 32 hours may be earned per biennial.
4. Home study programs (including those transmitted through electronic means): May accumulate up to 20 hours of continuing education per biennial renewal period.
5. Publications: An individual may accumulate up to 20 hours of continuing education per biennial renewal period.
6. Educational/training videos: An individual may accumulate up to 10 hours of continuing education within a biennial renewal period.
7. Workshop/Programs: 60 minutes equals 1 continuing education hour.
8. Presenters: An individual may receive credit for only the initial presentation during a renewal period. Credit will not be given for subsequent presentations of the same program/course.

94-013.03 Appropriate Subject Matter: Each credentialed individual must relate to mental health practice ethics; 3. Be responsible for:
a. Assuring the continuing education program meets the appropriate subject matter as follows:

- (1) Mental Health - Approved Continuing Education: Programs acceptable for continuing education credit for mental health practice must clearly relate to maintaining skills necessary for the safe and competent practice of mental health and are described as follows: marriage and family therapy or professional counseling.
 - (a) College Courses from an approved graduate program;
 - (b) Multi-disciplinary Programs relevant to the individual's practice setting;

- ~~(c) Educational/Training Videos;~~
- ~~(d) Practicums from an approved graduate program;~~
- ~~(e) Publications/Articles written by a licensee and/or certificate holder that enhance the maintenance of skills. Such publications/articles written by a licensee and/or certificate holder must be published in a refereed professional journal, or be a chapter of a book, or an entire book;~~
- ~~(f) Home Study Programs; and~~
- ~~(g) Dissertations from an approved graduate program.~~
- ~~(2) Marriage And Family Therapy - Approved Continuing Education: In addition to the programs for mental health practice, subject matter acceptable for continuing education credit in marriage and family therapy must clearly relate to maintaining skills necessary for the safe and competent practice of marriage and family therapy and is described, but not limited to, the following:~~
 - ~~(a) College courses from an approved graduate program which include courses:~~
 - ~~[1] Marriage and Family Studies;~~
 - ~~[2] Marriage and Family Therapy;~~
 - ~~[3] Human Development;~~
 - ~~[4] Professional Studies;~~
 - ~~[5] Research;~~
 - ~~[6] Workshops, Seminars, or Conferences;~~
 - ~~[7] Home Study Programs;~~
 - ~~[8] Publications; and must appear in a professional journal;~~
 - ~~or~~
 - ~~[9] Dissertations from an approved graduate program.~~
- ~~(3) Professional Counseling - Approved Continuing Education: In addition to the programs for mental health practice, subject matter acceptable for continuing education credit for professional counseling must clearly relate to maintaining skills necessary for the safe and competent practice of professional counseling and is described, but not limited to, the following:~~
 - ~~(a) College Courses from an approved graduate program which include course in:~~
 - ~~[1] Counseling Theory;~~
 - ~~[2] Human Growth and Development;~~
 - ~~[3] Social and Cultural Foundations;~~
 - ~~[4] The Helping Relationship;~~
 - ~~[5] Group Dynamics, Processing and Counseling;~~
 - ~~[6] Lifestyle and Career Development;~~
 - ~~[7] Appraisal of Individuals;~~
 - ~~[8] Research and Evaluation; or~~
 - ~~[9] Professional Orientation.~~
 - ~~(b) Workshops, Seminars, or Conferences;~~
 - ~~(c) Home Study Programs;~~
 - ~~(d) Publications must appear in a professional journal; or~~
 - ~~(e) Dissertations from an approved graduate program.~~

- ~~(4) Non-Acceptable Professional Counseling Continuing Education: Examples of nonacceptable subject matter for continuing education credit for professional counseling includes, but is not limited to the following:~~
- ~~(a) Association business meeting or delegate report;~~
 - ~~(b) Leadership training provided through associations; and~~
 - ~~(c) Business technology, techniques, and management.~~

- ~~(5)2. Social Work - Approved Continuing Education: In addition For certificate holders who do not hold or wish to maintain the programs for independent mental health practice, subject matter license or mental health practice license, programs acceptable for continuing education credit in social work must relate to maintaining skills necessary for the safe and competent practice of social work and is described as follows:-~~

- ~~(a) College Courses from an approved under graduate or graduate program;~~
3. Non-Acceptable Continuing Education: Examples of non-acceptable subject matter for continuing education credit includes, but is not limited to the following:

- ~~a. (b) Micro/Macro social work practice and research;~~
Association business meeting or delegate report;
 - ~~(c) Multi-disciplinary Programs relevant to the individual's practice setting;~~
 - ~~(d) Educational/Training Videos;~~
 - ~~(e) Practicums from an approved under graduate or graduate program;~~
 - ~~(f) Publications/Articles written by a certificate holder that enhance the maintenance of skills and must be published in a refereed professional journal, or be a chapter of a book or an entire book;~~
 - ~~(g) Home Study Programs; and.~~
 - ~~(e) Dissertations from an approved under graduate or graduate program.~~
- b. Leadership training provided through associations; and
- c. Business technology, business techniques, and management.

~~94-014.03 Presenters who are licensed must maintain documentation of presentation of a continuing education program. A presenter may receive credit for only the initial presentation during a renewal period. Credit will not be given for subsequent presentations of the same program.~~

~~94-014.94-013.04 Department Responsibility: The Department will not renew or reinstate the license and/or certification of any person who has not complied with the continuing education competency requirements of these regulations.~~

~~—94-014.013.05 Acceptable Continuing Education Program Criteria: A continuing education program must meet the following criteria to be acceptable for continuing~~

education credit: 1. The program must be at least 60 minutes in duration; 2. program must meet the following criteria to be acceptable for continuing competency credit:

1. The program's objectives must relate to the practice of mental health and/or the associated certificate;
32. Presenters of programs must be qualified by education, experience, or training;
43. Programs must be open to all ~~mental health practitioners licensed by Nebraska~~ credential holders credentialed under these regulations who meet the training and educational pre-requisites for the program. Employment can not be considered as a pre-requisite;
 - ~~a. Social Work: Programs relating to an associated certificate in social work must be open to all social workers certified by Nebraska who meet the training and education pre-requisites for the program. Employment can not be considered as a pre-requisite;~~
 - ~~b. Professional Counseling: Programs relating to an associated certificate in professional counseling must be open to all professional counselors certified by Nebraska who meet the training and education pre-requisites for the program. Employment can not be considered as a pre-requisite; and~~
 - ~~c. Marriage and Family Therapy: Programs relating to an associated certificate in marriage and family therapy must be open to all marriage and family therapists certified by Nebraska who meet the training and education pre-requisites for the program. Employment can not be considered as a pre-requisite.~~
54. Program provider must have a process for monitoring and verifying attendance.

94-014013.06 Home Study Program Criteria: A home study program must meet the following criteria to be acceptable for continuing education:

1. The home study program's objectives must relate to the enhancement of practice/skills of Mental Health, Social Work, Professional Counseling, or Marriage and Family Therapy. The home study program must be relevant to one or more areas as specified in 172 NAC 94-014.02:the practice/skills of the credential holder's scope of practice;
2. The provider must be qualified by education, experience, or training; and
3. The provider must employ a system to monitor knowledge obtained by the licensee and/or certificate holder completing a home study program, such as, but not limited to, a final examination or program evaluation.

94-014.08013.07 Publications/Articles Criteria: A publication/article must meet the following criteria to be accepted for continuing education credit:

1. The publication/article objectives must relate to the enhancement of the skills/practice of Mental Health, Social Work, Professional Counseling, or Marriage and Family Therapy. The publication must be relevant to one or more areas as specified in 172 NAC 94-014.02 the credential holder's scope of practice; and
2. The publication/article must be already published or accepted for publishing in a refereed and/or reviewed professional journal, as a chapter of a book, or as a book.

94-014.09013.08 Educational/Training Video Program Criteria: An educational/training video program must meet the following criteria to be acceptable for continuing education credit:

1. The educational/training video program's objectives must relate to the enhancement of the practice/skills of Mental Health, Social Work, Professional Counseling or Marriage and Family Therapy and must relate to 172 NAC 94-014.02: the credential holder's scope of practice;
2. The provider must be qualified by education, experience or training; and
3. The provider must employ a formal system to monitor and verify the use of the educational/training video.

94-014.10013.09 Dissertation Criteria: A dissertation must meet the following criteria to be acceptable for continuing education credit. The dissertations dissertation's objectives must relate directly to the theory or clinical application of theory relating to the credential holder's scope of practice.

Mental Health, Social Work, Professional Counseling, or Marriage and Family Therapy as specified in 172 NAC 94-014.02 and

94-014.11 Practicum Criteria: A practicum must meet the criteria specified in 172 NAC 94-014.02 to be acceptable for continuing education credit.

94-014.12 National, Regional, and International Sponsored Programs: Programs sponsored by national, regional, or international mental health associations or associations directly related to enhancing mental health practice will be acceptable for continuing education credit. Sessions must be professionally oriented and approved by that association for continuing education. Only the number of hours indicated as approved by the sponsoring organization will be acceptable for renewal.

1. Programs sponsored by national, regional, or international social work associations or associations directly related to enhancing social work practice need not apply for approval. Sessions must be professionally oriented and approved by that association for continuing education. Only the number of hours indicated as approved by the sponsoring organization will be acceptable for renewal.
2. Programs sponsored by national, regional, or international professional counseling associations or associations directly related to enhancing professional counseling practice need not apply for approval. Sessions must be

~~professionally oriented and approved by that association for continuing education. Only the number of hours indicated as approved by the sponsoring organization will be acceptable for renewal.~~

- ~~3. Programs sponsored by national, regional, or international marriage and family therapy associations or associations directly related to enhancing marriage and family therapy practice need not apply for approval. Sessions must be professionally oriented and approved by that association for continuing education. Only the number of hours indicated as approved by the sponsoring organization will be acceptable for renewal.~~

94-014.13013.010 Continuing Education Certificate of Completion: Each provider of a continuing continuing education program must furnish to each person completing the program a certificate of completion.

1. Each certificate must include the following:
 - a. Program title;
 - b. Name of the participant;
 - c. Provider's name;
 - d. City, State and Location of the program;
 - e. Date(s) of the program; and
 - f. Number of hours received by the licensee and/or certificate holder.
2. Presentation of the certificate will constitute evidence that the person complied with all requirements of the program and did complete the program.

94-014.14013.11 Program Monitoring: The provider must employ a reliable system to monitor the physical presence of participants throughout the entire program. If a participant chooses not to participate in the entire program, the certificate of attendance must reflect the participant's actual hours of attendance.

~~94-014.15 Denial of Continuing Education Programs: At the time of renewal the Board will deny a continuing education program on any of the following grounds:—~~

- ~~1. Program content or the presenter's qualifications fail to meet requirements specified in 172 NAC 94-014.05;~~
 - ~~2. The program's objectives do not relate to the practice of mental health, or to the associated certificate for which the continuing education is being requested;~~
 - ~~3. Failure to meet the requirements of 172 NAC 94-014.05; and~~
 - ~~4. Failure to reflect participant's actual hours of attendance upon the certificate issued.~~
- ~~94-014.15A Should the Board determine to deny a continuing education program, the Division will send to the applicant by either certified or registered mail to the last address of record in the Department a notice setting forth the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 calendar days after the mailing of the notice unless the applicant within the 30 day period, gives written notice to the Department of a desire for hearing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 84, Article 9 and 184 NAC 1 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Department. The applicant may re-submit the program for re-evaluation.~~

94-014 RENEWAL: An individual who wants to renew his/her credential must request renewal as specified in 172 NAC 94-014.02. All Independent Mental Health Practice Licenses, Mental Health Practice Licenses, Marriage and Family Therapy Certificates, Professional Counseling Certificates, and Social Work Certificates issued by the Department will expire on September 1 of each even-numbered year.

~~94-015.01~~ The Department will deny an application for a license and/or certificate when the applicant fails to meet the requirements for license and/or certification of any of the provisions of 172 NAC 94-003 through 94-0046, or is found to be in violation of any of the provisions of 172 NAC 94-015;94-014.01 Renewal Notice: At least 30 days before the expiration of a credential, the Department will notify each credential holder at the last known address of record. The renewal notice will include:

~~94-015.02~~ The Department will refuse renewal of a license and/or certificate if the licensee and/or certificate holder fails to meet the requirements specified in 172 NAC 94-010 or 94-0011, or in 94-0012.

~~94-015.03~~ The Department may deny, refuse renewal of, limit, suspend, or revoke a license and/or certificate for any of the following grounds and other grounds found in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-147:

1. The type of credential;
1. ~~1.~~ Fraud, forgery, or misrepresentation
2. The credential number;
3. The expiration date;
4. Continuing competency requirements for renewal;
5. The amount of the renewal fee; and
6. Information on how to request renewal and how to place a credential on inactive status.

94-014.02 Renewal Procedures: The request for renewal may be submitted in person or by mail or Internet, and must include all required documentation and the renewal fee, which must be paid no later than the expiration date. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application.

1. Application: The applicant must attest that all information in the application is truthful and complete, and the applicant, in his/her application:
 - a. Must provide the following information:
 - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
 - (2) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
 - (3) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN); or
 - (b) Alien Registration Number (A#) or Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number;

- Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
- b. Must state that s/he is one of the following:
- (1) A citizen of the United States;
 - (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;
- b.c. May provide the following information about him/herself:
- (1) The applicant's telephone number including area code;
 - (2) The applicant's e-mail address; and
 - (3) The applicant's fax number;
- b.d. Must indicate that s/he:
- (1) Is of good character;
 - (2) Has met the continuing competency requirements specified in 172 NAC 94-013 or has requested a waiver if s/he meets the requirements of 172 NAC 94-014.03 and/or 94-014.04; and
 - (3) Has not, since the last renewal of the credential, committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 94-015.01, or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such act(s); and
 - (4) Is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, for the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her USCIS documentation upon request.

2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:

- a. Alien or Non-Immigrant: Evidence of lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:
- (1) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
 - (4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
- b. Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued,

and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed;

- c. Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary actions taken against the applicant's credential and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;
- d. Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take a credentialing examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial; and
- e. Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor since his/her last renewal or during the time period since initial credentialing if such occurred within the previous two years, the applicant must submit to the Department:
 - (1) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
 - (2) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;
 - (3) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the convictions;
 - (4) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
 - (5) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
 - (6) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department; and

3. The renewal fee according to 172 NAC 2.

94-014.03 Waivers for Military Service: A credential holder who has served in the regular armed forces of the United States during part of the credentialing period immediately preceding the renewal date, or is actively engaged in military service as defined in 172 NAC 94-002, is not required to pay the renewal fee or to meet the continuing competency requirements if acceptable documentation is submitted to the Department. The individual must document his/her military service by submitting to the Department:

- 1. Military identification proving that s/he is in active service;
- 2. Military orders; or
- 3. A letter from his/her Commanding Officer indicating that s/he is on active duty.

Upon receipt of acceptable documentation, the Department will waive the fee and the continuing competency requirements and renew the credential. The credential will remain active until the next renewal period.

94-014.04 Waiver of Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department waives continuing competency requirements for individuals who were first credentialed within the 24-month period immediately preceding the renewal date.

94-014.05 Audit of Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department or the Board may biennially select, in a random manner, a sample of the renewal applications for audit of continuing competency requirements. Each credential holder selected for audit must produce documentation of the continuing competency activities.

94-014.05A The Department will notify each selected credential holder by mail. Failure to notify the Department of a current mailing address will not absolve the credential holder from the requirement for audit.

94-014.05B Within 30 days, each selected credential holder must respond by submitting documentation that s/he has met the requirements for continuing competency. An extension beyond 30 days for submission of the documentation may be granted at the discretion of the Department. Documentation submitted by the credential holder will not be returned.

94-014.05C Acceptable documentation that the credential holder has met the continuing competency requirements include copies of:

1. Certificates of attendance;
2. Attendance/Sign in-out rosters;
3. Transcripts or grade reports;
4. Evidence of publication;
5. Letters from sponsors of continuing education verifying attendance;
or
6. Similar documentation.

94-014.05D The Department/Board will review the submitted documentation to determine if the credential holder has met the requirements for continuing competency activities for renewal of the credential. Only documented activities/hours that meet the continuing competency requirements will be counted toward the total requirements for renewal.

94-014.05E The Department will notify the credential holder upon satisfactory completion of the audit.

94-014.05F The credential of any person who fails to comply with the conditions of the audit will expire 30 days after notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

94-014.05G The Board reserves the right to audit continuing competency requirements of any credential holder by notifying the credential holder and requesting that s/he produce the required documentation of attendance at or participation in acceptable continuing competency programs within 30 days of mailing.

94-014.06 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for renewal.

94-014.06A False Information: The Department may refuse to renew a credential for falsification of any information submitted for renewal of a credential. The refusal will be made according to 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

94-014.07 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

94-014.08 Expiration of a Credential: A credential expires if a credential holder fails to:

1. Notify the Department that s/he wants to place his/her credential on inactive status upon its expiration;
2. Meet the requirements for renewal on or before the date of expiration of his/her credential; or
3. Otherwise fails to renew his/her credential.

94-014.08A Failure to Renew: A credential automatically expires without further notice or opportunity for hearing if a credential holder fails by the expiration date of the credential to either:

1. Submit documentation of continuing competency; or
2. Pay the required renewal fee.

94-014.08B Failure to Meet Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department will refuse to renew a credential, after notice and opportunity for hearing, if a credential holder fails to meet the continuing competency requirements for renewal by the expiration date of the credential.

94-014.08C Right to Practice: When an individual's credential expires, the right to represent him/herself as a credential holder and to practice terminates.

94-014.08D Practice After Expiration: An individual who practices after expiration of his/her credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 94-018 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

94-014.08E Reinstatement of an Expired Credential: If a credential holder wants to resume the practice of his/her credential after failing to renew his/her credential by the expiration date, s/he must apply to the Department for reinstatement as specified in 172 NAC 94-017.

94-014.09 Inactive Status: When an individual wants to have his/her credential placed on inactive status, s/he must notify the Department in writing. There is no fee to have a credential placed on inactive status and continuing competency is not required.

94-014.09A Request for Inactive Status: When the Department has received

notification that an individual wants to have his/her credential placed on inactive status, the Department will notify the credential holder in writing of the acceptance or denial of the request.

94-014.09B Placement on Inactive Status: When an individual's credential is placed on inactive status, the credential holder must not engage in the practice of mental health and/or represent him/herself as a certified marriage and family therapist, certified professional counselor or social worker, but may represent him/herself as having an inactive credential.

94-014.09C Return to Active Status: A credential may remain on inactive status for an indefinite period of time. An individual who wants to have his/her credential returned to active status must apply to the Department for reinstatement and meet the requirements specified in 172 NAC 94-017.

94-015 GROUND ON WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY DENY, REFUSE RENEWAL OF OR DISCIPLINE A LICENSEE AND/OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER

94-015 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

94-015.01 Grounds for Action Against a Credential: A credential to practice a profession may have disciplinary actions taken against it on any of the following grounds:

1. Misrepresentation of material facts, in procuring or attempting to procure a license or certificate credential;
2. Grossly immoral
2. Immoral or dishonorable conduct evidencing unfitness or lack of proficiency sufficient to meet the standards required for practice of the profession in this state;
3. Habitual intoxication or dependence or failure
3. Abuse of, dependence on, or active addiction to alcohol, any controlled substance, or any mind-altering substance;
4. Failure to comply with a treatment program or an aftercare program, including, but not limited to, a program entered into under the Licensee Assistance Program established pursuant to section 71-172.01 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-175;
45. Conviction of:
 - a. A misdemeanor or felony under state Nebraska law, or federal law, or the law of another
 - b. A crime in any jurisdiction and which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a misdemeanor or felony under state Nebraska law and which has a rational connection with the applicant's or licensee's and/or certificate holder's fitness or capacity to practice the profession.
5. Practice of of the applicant or credential holder to practice the profession (a) fraudulently, (b) beyond;
6. Practice of the profession;

- a. Fraudulently,
b. Beyond its authorized scope, (c) with manifest incapacity, (d) with
c. With gross incompetence or with gross negligence, or (e) in
d. In a pattern of incompetent or negligent conduct. Pattern of negligent
conduct means a continued course of negligent conduct in performing the duties of
the profession.;
- ~~6-7.~~ Practice of the profession while the ability to practice is impaired by alcohol, controlled substances, ~~narco~~tic drugs, mind-altering substances, physical disability, mental disability, or emotional disability.;
- ~~78.~~ Physical or mental incapacity to practice the profession as evidenced by a legal ~~adjudication~~judgment or a determination thereof by other lawful means.;
- ~~89.~~ Illness, deterioration, or disability that impairs the ability to practice the profession;
- ~~10.~~ Permitting, aiding, or abetting the practice of a profession or the performance of activities requiring a ~~license or certificate~~credential by a person not ~~licensed or certified~~credentialed to do so.;
- ~~9.~~ ~~Action taken by another jurisdiction to deny, refuse renewal, limit, suspend or revoke a license and/or certificate to provide mental health services or a license/certificate to practice social work, providing such action against the individual was based upon offenses specified in 172 NAC 94-012 in proceedings comparable to those provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-155.~~
- ~~10.~~ Unprofessional conduct as defined in 172 NAC 94-016.
- ~~11.~~ Use of untruthful or improbable statements, or flamboyant, exaggerated, or extravagant claims concerning such licensee's and/or certificate holder's professional excellence or abilities, in advertisements. Having had his/her credential denied, refused renewal, limited, suspended, revoked, or disciplined in any manner similar to 172 NAC 94-015.06 by another state or jurisdiction based upon acts by the applicant or credential holder similar to acts described in this part;
- ~~12.~~ Use of untruthful, deceptive, or misleading statements in advertisements;
- ~~13.~~ Conviction of fraudulent or misleading advertising or conviction of a violation of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act.;
- ~~13~~14. Distribution of intoxicating liquors, controlled ~~substances~~substances, or drugs for any other than lawful purposes.;
- ~~14.~~ ~~Willful or repeated violations~~15. Violations of the Uniform Licensing Law or these Credentialing Act or the rules and regulations, relating to the particular profession;
- ~~15-16.~~ Unlawful invasion of the field of practice of any profession mentioned in profession regulated by the Uniform Licensing Law Credentialing Act which

~~the licensee and/or certificate/credential holder is not licensed or certified/credentialed to practice;~~

- ~~16-17. Violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act or any rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the act;~~
- ~~18. Failure to file a report required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-1,124 or 38-1,125;~~
- ~~19. Failure to maintain the requirements necessary to obtain a credential;~~
- ~~20. Violation of an order issued by the Department;~~
- ~~21. Violation of an assurance of compliance entered into under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-168, § 38-1,108;~~

- ~~17. Practicing the professions of mental health, social work, professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy while his/her license or certificate is suspended or in contravention of any limitation placed upon his/her license or certificate.~~
- ~~18. When the applicant is found to be not qualified to practice the particular profession or occupation for which s/he is applying, licensed, or certified because of physical or mental illness or physical or mental deterioration or disability.~~
- ~~19. Refusal of an applicant for a license and/or certificate or of a licensee and/or certificate holder to submit to a physical or mental examination request by the Board, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-161.12 to 71-161.16 to determine his/her qualifications to practice or to continue in the practice of the profession or occupation for which application was made or for which s/he is licensed or certified.~~

- ~~20-22. Failure to disclose to pay an administrative penalty;~~
- ~~23. Unprofessional conduct as defined in 172 NAC 94-015.02;~~
- ~~24. Violation of the Automated Medication Systems Act, or~~
- ~~25. Failure to inform all clients that s/he holds a provisional license, as a mental health practitioner or a provisional certification as a master social worker and is practicing mental health under supervision, and identifies the name of supervisor.~~

~~94-016 UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT: For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-147, unprofessional~~94-015.02 Unprofessional Conduct: Unprofessional conduct means any departure from or failure to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of a profession or occupation or the ethics of the profession or occupation, regardless of whether a person, patient/consumer, or entity is injured, or but does not include a single act of ordinary negligence. Unprofessional conduct also means conduct that is likely to deceive or defraud the public or is detrimental to the public interest. Unprofessional conduct includes. In addition to the acts specified in ~~Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-148 and pursuant to § 71-147, actions or practices which fail to conform to accepted standards for mental health, social work, professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy, and which could jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of the client constitute unprofessional conduct by a licensed mental health practitioner, certified master social worker, certified social worker, certified professional counselor, or certified marriage and family therapist, and include but are is~~ not limited to the following:

- 1. Receipt of fees on the assurance that an incurable disease can be

- permanently cured;
2. Division of fees, or agreeing to split or divide the fees, received for professional services with any person for bringing or referring a consumer other than:
 - a. With a partner or employee of the applicant or credential holder or his/her office or clinic;
 - b. With a landlord of the applicant or credential holder pursuant to a written agreement that provides for payment of rent based on gross receipts;
 - c. With a former partner or employee of the applicant or credential holder based on a retirement plan or separation agreement; or
 - d. By a person credentialed pursuant to the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Act.
 3. Obtaining any fee for professional services by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, including, but not limited to, falsification of third-party claim documents;
 4. Cheating on or attempting to subvert the credentialing examination;
 5. Assisting in the care or treatment of a consumer without the consent of the consumer or his/her legal representative;
 6. Use of any letters, words, or terms, either as a prefix, affix, or suffix, on stationery, in advertisements, or otherwise, indicating that the person is entitled to practice a profession for which s/he is not credentialed;
 7. Performing, procuring, or aiding and abetting in the performance or procurement of a criminal abortion;
 8. Knowingly disclosing confidential information except as otherwise permitted by law;
 9. Commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or exploitation related to the practice of the profession of the applicant or credential holder;
 10. Failure to keep and maintain adequate records of treatment or service;
 11. Prescribing, administering, distributing, dispensing, giving, or selling any controlled substance or other drug recognized as addictive or dangerous for other than a medically accepted therapeutic purpose;
 12. Prescribing any controlled substance to:
 - a. Oneself; or
 - b. Except in the case of a medical emergency:
 - (1) One's spouse;
 - (2) One's child;
 - (3) One's parent;
 - (4) One's sibling; or
 - (5) Any other person living in the same household as the prescriber;
 13. Failure to comply with any federal, state, or municipal law, ordinance, rule, or regulation that pertains to the applicable profession; or
 14. Disruptive behavior, whether verbal or physical, which interferes with consumer care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the care;
 15. Discrimination: Credential holders must provide professional assistance to patients/clients without discrimination on the basis of race, age, ethnicity,

socioeconomic status, disability, gender, health status, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

16. Competence: ~~A mental health practitioner, certified master social worker, certified social worker, certified professional counselor, or certified marriage and family therapist~~ credential holder must not provide services for which s/he is not trained or experienced.

If during the treatment of the presenting problem, the client/patient seeks treatment from the credential holder for a newly identified problem and the credential holder is unable to provide the treatment for any reason, the credential holder must refer the client/patient. Such referral may be for the initial presenting problem, or the newly identified problem or both.

~~Unprofessional conduct in the practice of mental health services, social work, professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy~~ includes but is not limited to:

- a1. Committing any act which endangers patient/client safety or welfare;
or
b2. Failure to adhere to or departure from the standards of acceptable and prevailing practice in mental health practice, social work, professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy.

17. ~~94-016.02 Confidentiality:~~ A ~~licensee/certificate~~ credential holder must hold in confidence information obtained from a patient/client, except in those unusual circumstances in which to do so would result in clear danger to the person or to others, or where otherwise required by law.

18. ~~94-016.03 Professional Relationships:~~ A ~~licensee/certificate~~ credential holder must safeguard the welfare of patients/clients and maintain professional relationships with patients/clients. Commission of any of the following acts or behavior constitutes unprofessional conduct.

- 1a. Exploiting another person for one's own advantage;
- b2. Performing or agreeing to perform mental health services, social work, professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy that have been requested when such services are known to be contraindicated or unjustified;
- c3. Performing or agreeing to perform procedures that have been requested when such procedures are known to be outside of the mental health practice, social work, professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy scope of practice;
- d4. Verbally or physically abusing patients/clients;

- ~~_____ e5. Falsification or unauthorized destruction of patients/clients records; 6. Attempting to provide diagnostic or treatment information to patient's(s)/client(s) that is beyond the licensee/certificate holders credential holder's level of education, training and expertise;~~
- ~~7f. Delegating to other personnel those patient/client related services for which the clinical skills and expertise of a licensee/certificate credential holder are required;~~
- ~~8g. Encouraging or promoting the practice of mental health services, social work, professional counseling or marriage and family therapy by untrained or unqualified persons; or~~
- ~~_____ 9h. Failure to safeguard the patient's/client's dignity and right to privacy.~~

~~94-016.04 Sexual Harassment: A licensee/certificate holder must not under any circumstances engage in sexual harassment of patients/clients.~~

- ~~1. Sexual harassment includes making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, and engaging in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature which results in:~~
- ~~a. Providing or denying care to a patient/client;~~
- ~~b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for the patient/client; or~~
- ~~c. Interfering with a patient's/client's ability to recover.~~

~~1920.94-016. Dual Relationship: Licensees and/or certificate Credential holders must make every effort to avoid dual relationships with clients that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation. When a dual relationship cannot be avoided, licensees and/or certificate holders should must take appropriate professional precautions (seek supervision and/or professional consultation) to ensure judgment is not impaired and no exploitation occurs.- Examples of such dual relationships include, but are not limited to, business or close personal relationships with a client.~~

~~_____ 204. Sexual Intimacy: Sexual intimacy with a client during the provision of professional services, 6 months preceding the provision of professional services is prohibited. Sexual intimacy, or with a former client for less than 2 years following the termination of therapy is prohibited.~~

- ~~_____ a1. Sexual Intimacy means any written, verbal, or physical behavior which a reasonable person would find to be sexually seductive or sexually demeaning. Sexual intimacy may or may not include sexual contact.~~

~~_____ (1)a- Sexual contact is defined as sexual intercourse, either genital or anal, cunnilingus, fellatio, sodomy or the handling of breasts, genital areas, buttocks, or thighs whether clothed or~~

unclothed, initiated or consented to by ~~licensee~~the credential holder.

In the therapeutic relationship, ~~licensees are~~credential holders need to be aware of the intimacy and responsibilities inherent in the therapeutic relationship and must avoid actions that seek to meet their personal needs at the expense of clients. ~~Licensees are~~Credential holders must be aware of their influential positions with respect to clients, and they must avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons. ~~Licensees~~Credential holders, therefore, must make every effort to avoid conditions and multiple relationships with clients that could impair professional ~~judgement~~judgment or increase the risk of exploitation.

21. Sexual Harassment: A credential holder must not under any circumstances engage in sexual harassment of patients/clients. Sexual harassment includes making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, and engaging in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature which results in:

a. Providing or denying care to a patient/client;

b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for the patient/client; or

c. Interfering with a patient's/client's ability to recover.

22. Professional Records: Credential holders must:

a. Maintain client records for at least 5 years following termination of services;

b. Not falsify patients/clients records;

c. Not destroy patients/clients records when not authorized to do so;

d. Store, safeguard, and dispose of client records in ways that maintain confidentiality and in accord with applicable laws and professional standards; and

e. Subsequent to the credential holder moving from the area, closing the practice, or upon the death of the therapist, a credential holder must arrange for the storage, transfer, or disposal of client records in ways that maintain confidentiality and safeguard the welfare of clients.

23. Technology Assisted Services: Clients in Nebraska receiving technology assisted services, such as internet or phone services, must be provided by a Nebraska credential holder.

24. Students and Supervisees. Credential holders do not exploit the trust and dependency of students and supervisees.

a. Credential holders must be aware of their influential positions with respect to students and supervisees, and they must avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons. Credential holders,

therefore, must make every effort to avoid conditions and multiple relationships that could impair professional objectivity or increase the risk of exploitation. When the risk of impairment or exploitation exists due to conditions or multiple roles, therapists must take appropriate precautions.

- b. Credential holders must not provide professional services to current students or supervisees.
- c. Credential holders must not engage in sexual intimacy with students or supervisees during the evaluative or training relationship between the credential holder and student or supervisee. Should a supervisor engage in sexual activity with a former supervisee, the burden of proof shifts to the supervisor to demonstrate that there has been no exploitation or injury to the supervisee.
- d. Credential holders must not permit students or supervisees to perform or to hold themselves out as competent to perform professional services beyond their training, level of experience, and competence.
- e. Credential holders must take reasonable measures to ensure that services provided by supervisees are professional.
- f. Credential holders must avoid accepting as supervisees or students those individuals with whom a prior or existing relationship could compromise the credential holder's objectivity. When such situations cannot be avoided, credential holders take appropriate precautions to maintain objectivity. Examples of such relationships include, but are not limited to, those individuals with whom the credential holder has a current or prior sexual, close personal, immediate familial, or therapeutic relationship.
- g. Credential holders must not disclose supervisee confidences except by written authorization or waiver, or when mandated or permitted by law. In educational or training settings where there are multiple supervisors, disclosures are permitted only to other professional colleagues, administrators, or employers who share responsibility for training of the supervisee. Verbal authorization is not sufficient except in emergency situations, unless prohibited by law.

25. Disclosure of Confidential Information: A person licensed or certified pursuant to these regulations must not disclose any information s/he may have acquired from any person consulting him/her in his/her professional capacity except:

- a1. With the written consent of such person;
-

~~b2.~~ _____—In the case of death or disability, of the person's personal representative, any other person authorized to sue on behalf of the person, or the beneficiary of an insurance policy on the person's life, health, or physical condition;

~~3c.~~ _____ When more than one person in a family received therapy conjointly, each such family member who is legally competent to execute a waiver must agree to the waiver referred to in this section. Without such a waiver from each family member legally competent to execute a waiver, a practitioner must not disclose information received from any family member who received therapy conjointly;

~~4d.~~ _____—As such privilege is limited by the laws of the State of Nebraska or as the board may determine by rule and regulation;

~~5e.~~ _____ When the person waives the privilege by bringing charges against the ~~licensee/certificate~~credential holder;

~~6f.~~ _____ When there is a duty to warn under the limited circumstances set forth in ~~172 NAC 94-018~~Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-2137 as follows:

~~7~~ _____ ~~-(1)~~ (1) There is no monetary liability on the part of, and no cause of action will arise against, any person who is licensed or certified pursuant to ~~172 NAC 94-003 through 94-006~~the Mental Health Practice Act for failing to warn of and protect from a patient's threatened violent behavior or failing to predict and warn of and protect from a patient's violent behavior except when the patient has communicated to the licensee and/or certificate holder a serious threat of physical violence against himself, herself, or a reasonably identifiable victim or victims;

~~8~~ _____ (2). The duty to warn of or to take reasonable precautions to provide protection from violent behavior arises only under the limited circumstances specified in ~~172 NAC 94-018~~172 NAC 94-015.03, item 6a. The duty is discharged by the ~~licensee and/or certificate~~credential holder if reasonable efforts are made to communicate the threat to the victim or victims and to a law enforcement agency; and

~~9.~~ _____—No monetary liability and no cause of action will arise under ~~172 NAC 94-018~~Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-2136 against a licensee or certificate holder for information disclosed to third parties in an effort to discharge a duty arising under ~~172 NAC 94-018~~172 NAC 94-015.03, item 6a according to the provisions of 172 NAC-015.03, item 6b.

94-016.06 Other:

1. ~~Solicitation of professional patronage by agents or persons, popularly known as cappers or steerers, or profiting by the acts of those representing themselves to be agents of the licensee and/or certificate holder.~~
2. ~~Receipt of fees on the assurance that a manifestly incurable disease can be permanently cured.~~
3. ~~Division of fees or agreeing to split or divide the share fees received for professional services with any person for bringing or referring a client.~~
4. ~~Obtaining any fee for professional services by fraud, deceit or misrepresentation including, but not limited to, falsification of third party claim documents.~~
5. ~~Cheating on or attempting to subvert the licensure and/or certification examination.~~
6. ~~Assisting in the care or treatment of a client without the consent of such client or his/her legal representative.~~
7. ~~The use of any letters, words or terms, either as a prefix, affix, or suffix on stationery, in advertisements or otherwise, indicating that such person is entitled to practice a system or mode of healing for which s/he is not licensed and/or certified.~~
8. ~~Willful betrayal of a professional secret.~~
9. ~~Making use of any advertising statements of a character tending to deceive or mislead the public.~~
10. ~~Advertising professional superiority or the performance of professional services in a superior manner.~~
11. ~~The violation of an assurance of compliance entered into under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-171.02.~~
12. ~~The commission an any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or exploitation related to the practice of the profession of mental health, social work, professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy.~~
13. ~~The failure to keep and maintain adequate records of treatment of service.~~
14. ~~The use of undue influence to entice clients to commit actions that are emotionally or financially detrimental.~~
15. ~~The use of any sexual conduct which clearly demonstrates an intent to entice clients to commit actions that may cause present or future emotional or financial harm to the client.~~
16. ~~Being unable to competently perform mental health, social work, professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy functions because of a psychological impairment.~~
17. ~~Use of alcohol or other drugs to the point that there is interference with the performance of services provided by the professional.~~
18. ~~Falsifying or not completing clients' records.~~
19. ~~Intentional failure to report through the proper channels the incompetent, unethical or illegal practice of any person who is representing himself/herself as a licensed mental health practitioner, or as a certified social worker, certified master social worker, certified professional counselor, or certified marriage and family therapist; unless the licensee/certificate holder acquired the knowledge in a professional relationship otherwise protected by confidentiality.~~
20. ~~Nothing in 172 NAC 94-015 or 94-016 excludes determination of additional conduct that is unprofessional by adjudication in individual contested cases.~~

94-015.04A The Department may temporarily suspend or temporarily limit any credential issued by the Department without notice or a hearing if the Director determines that there is reasonable cause to believe that grounds exist under 172 NAC 94-015 for the revocation, suspension, or limitation of the credential and that the credential holder's continuation in practice or operation would constitute an imminent danger to the public health and safety. Simultaneously with the action, the Department will institute proceedings for a hearing on the grounds for revocation, suspension, or limitation of the credential. The hearing will be held no later than 15 days from the date of the temporary suspension or temporary limitation of the credential.

94-015.04B A continuance of the hearing will be granted by the Department upon the written request of the credential holder, and the continuance must not exceed 30 days unless waived by the credential holder. A temporary suspension or temporary limitation order by the Director will take effect when served upon the credential holder.

94-015.04C A temporary suspension or temporary limitation of a credential under 172 NAC 94-015.04 will not be in effect for more than 90 days unless waived by the credential holder. If a decision is not reached within 90 days, the credential will be reinstated unless and until the Department reaches a decision to revoke, suspend, or limit the credential or otherwise discipline the credential holder.

94-015.05 Department Action: The Department will follow the procedures delineated in the Uniform Credentialing Act to notify credential holders of any disciplinary action to be imposed and the time and place of the hearing.

94-015.06 Sanctions: Upon the completion of any hearing held regarding discipline of a credential, the Director may dismiss the action or impose the following sanctions:

1. Censure;
2. Probation;
3. Limitation;
4. Civil Penalty;
5. Suspension; or
6. Revocation.

94-015.06A Additional Terms and Conditions of Discipline: If any discipline is imposed pursuant to 172 NAC 94-015.06, the Director may, in addition to any other terms and conditions of that discipline:

1. Require the credential holder to obtain additional professional training and to pass an examination upon the completion of the training. The examination may be written or oral or both and may be a practical or clinical examination or both or any or all of the combinations of written, oral, practical, and clinical, at the option of the Director;
2. Require the credential holder to submit to a complete diagnostic

examination by one or more physicians or other qualified professionals appointed by the Director. If the Director requires the credential holder to submit to an examination, the Director will receive and consider any other report of a complete diagnostic examination given by one or more physicians or other qualified professionals of the credential holder's choice if the credential holder chooses to make available the report or reports by his/her physician or physicians or other qualified professionals; and

3. Limit the extent, scope, or type of practice of the credential holder.

94-016 VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OR LIMITATION: A credential holder may offer to voluntarily surrender or limit a credential issued by the Department. The credential holder must make the offer in writing on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the credential holder, which must include the following information:

1. Personal Information:

- a. First, middle and last name;
b. Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address), city, state, and zip code;
c. Telephone number; and
d. Fax number.

2. Information Regarding the Credential Being Offered for Surrender or Limitation:

- a. List credential(s) and credential number(s) that would be surrendered or limited;
b. Indicate the desired time frame for offered surrender or limitation:
(1) Permanently;
(2) Indefinitely; or
(3) Definite period of time (specify);
c. Specify reason for offered surrender or limit of credential; and
d. Specify any terms and conditions that the credential holder wishes to have the Department consider and apply to the offer.

3. Attestation: The credential holder must:

- a. Attest that all the information on the offer is true and complete; and
b. Provide the credential holder's signature and date.

94-016.01 The Department may accept an offer of voluntary surrender or limitation of a credential based on:

1. An offer made by the credential holder on his/her own volition;
2. An offer made with the agreement of the Attorney General or the legal counsel of the Department to resolve a pending disciplinary matter;
3. A decision by the Attorney General to negotiate a voluntary surrender or limitation in lieu of filing a petition for disciplinary action; or
4. A decision by the legal counsel of the Department to negotiate a voluntary surrender or limitation in response to a notice of disciplinary action.

94-016.02 The Department may reject an offer of voluntary surrender of a credential under circumstances which include, but are not limited to, when the credential:

1. Is under investigation;
2. Has a disciplinary action pending but a disposition has not been rendered; or
3. Has had a disciplinary action taken against it.

94-016.03 When the Department either accepts or rejects an offer of voluntary surrender or limitation, the Director will issue the decision in a written order. The order will be issued within 30 days after receipt of the offer of voluntary surrender or limitation and will specify:

1. Whether the Department accepts or rejects the offer of voluntary surrender; and
2. The terms and conditions under which the voluntary surrender is accepted or the basis for the rejection of an offer of voluntary surrender. The terms and conditions governing the acceptance of a voluntary surrender will include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Duration of the surrender;
 - b. Whether the credential holder may apply to have the credential reinstated; and
 - c. Any terms and conditions for reinstatement.

94-016.04 A limitation may be placed on the right of the credential holder to practice a profession or operate a business to the extent, for the time, and under the conditions as imposed by the Director.

94-016.05 Violation of any of the terms and conditions of a voluntary surrender or limitation by the credential holder will be due cause for the refusal of renewal of the credential, for the suspension or revocation of the credential, or for refusal to restore the credential.

94-016.06 Reinstatement following voluntary surrender is set out in 172 NAC 94-017.

~~94-017 RE-CREDENTIALING: This section applies to individuals previously issued a Nebraska credential who have lost the legal authority to practice in total or in part and who seek the authority to return to practice in Nebraska with a valid Nebraska credential.~~

~~94-017.01 Eligibility~~

~~94-017.01A An individual whose credential has been previously:~~

- ~~1. Placed on lapsed status;~~
 - ~~2. Placed on inactive status;~~
 - ~~3. Revoked for failure to meet the renewal requirements;~~
 - ~~4. Suspended or limited for disciplinary reasons; or~~
 - ~~5. Voluntarily surrendered or voluntarily limited for an indefinite period of time;~~
- ~~may request, at any time, to be re-credentialed and re-authorized to practice under the credential, in accord with these regulations.~~

~~94-017.01B An individual whose has been revoked for disciplinary reasons may apply for reinstatement only after a period of two years has elapsed from the date of revocation.~~

~~94-017.01C An individual who practices prior to re-credentialing is subject to:~~

- ~~1. Assessment of an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020, and~~

2. ~~Limitation or other sanction on the credential, or denial of the request to be re-credentialed and re-authorized to practice under the credential, and referral for prosecution for uncredentialed practice, as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.~~

~~94-017.02 Requirements for Restoration from Lapsed Status: A person whose credential has been placed on lapsed status may have their credential restored from lapsed to active status by the Department upon proof to the Department that they meet the requirements pursuant to 172 NAC 94-003, 94-004, and/or 94-005.~~

~~94-017.02A If the Department has evidence that an applicant has practiced while his/her credential was lapsed, the Department may:~~

1. ~~Assess an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020;~~
2. ~~Initiate disciplinary action against the lapsed credential;~~
3. ~~Deny the request to restore the credential from lapsed to active status; or~~
4. ~~Restore the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other sanctions on the credential.~~

~~94-017.02B If the Department has evidence that an applicant has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, the Department may:~~

1. ~~Initiate disciplinary action against the lapsed credential;~~
2. ~~Deny the request to restore the credential from lapsed to active status;~~
~~or Restore the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other~~
~~sanctions on the credential.~~

~~94-017.02C The Department will act within 150 days on all completed applications.~~

~~94-017.02D The applicant will be provided with notice and the opportunity for hearing in accord with the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure and Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920 before any of the actions pursuant to 172 NAC 94-017.02A and 94-017.02B are final.~~

~~94-017.03 Requirements to Move a Credential from Inactive to Active Status: A person whose credential has been placed on inactive status may have his/her credential moved from inactive to active status upon proof to the Department that they meet the following requirements:~~

1. ~~Meet renewal requirements, including:~~
 - a. ~~The continuing competency requirements; and~~
 - b. ~~Paying the renewal fee and any other applicable fees;~~
2. ~~Attest:~~
 - b. ~~That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
 - b. ~~To the actual number of days practiced if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~

~~94-017.04 Procedures for Moving from Inactive to Active Status: To move a credential from inactive status to active status, the applicant must submit the following to the Department:~~

1. ~~A written application which contains the following information about the applicant:~~
 - a. ~~Name;~~
 - b. ~~Address;~~
 - c. ~~Social security number; and~~
 - d. ~~If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;~~
 - e. ~~A statement describing all:~~
 - (1) ~~Felony or misdemeanor convictions during the time period since the credential was active;~~

- ~~(a) If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor,
provide copies of:~~
- ~~[1] Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~[2] Arrest records;~~
 - ~~[3] A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~[4] All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~[5] A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation.~~
- ~~(2) Revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions against any professional credential held by the applicant during the time period since the credential was active;~~
- ~~(a) If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's credential by another state, submit an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition; and~~
- ~~(3) Disciplinary charges pending against any professional credential held
by the applicant.~~
- ~~f. Verification that the continuing competency requirements for renewal have been met;~~
- ~~2. The renewal fee and any other applicable fees; and~~
 - ~~3. Attestation by applicant:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
 - ~~e. To the actual number of days practiced if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~~~
- ~~94-017.04A If an applicant has practiced while his/her credential was inactive, the Department may:~~
- ~~1. Assess an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020;~~
 - ~~2. Initiate disciplinary action against the credential;~~
 - ~~3. Deny the request to move the credential from inactive to active status; or~~
 - ~~4. Move the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other sanctions on the credential.~~
- ~~94-017.04B If an applicant has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, the Department may:~~
- ~~1. Initiate disciplinary action against the credential;~~
 - ~~2. Deny the request to move the credential from inactive to active status; or~~
 - ~~3. Move the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other sanctions on the credential.~~
- ~~94-017.04C In either event pursuant to 172 NAC 94-017.04A or 94-017.04B, a notice and the opportunity for hearing will be given to the applicant.~~
- ~~94-017.04D The Department will act within 150 days on all completed applications.~~
- ~~94-017.05 Requirements for Reinstatement Within One Year Following Revocation for~~

~~Failure to Meet the Renewal Requirements:~~ An applicant for reinstatement who applies not more than one year following revocation for failure to meet renewal requirements must:

- ~~1. Meet the renewal requirements, including:
 - ~~a. The continuing competency requirements; and~~
 - ~~b. Paying the renewal fee, the late fee of \$35 and any other applicable fees;~~~~
- ~~2. Attest:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~~~

~~94-017.06 Procedures for Reinstatement Within One Year Following Revocation for Failure to Meet the Renewal Requirements:~~ To reinstate a credential not more than one year following revocation for failure to meet renewal requirements, the applicant must submit the following to the Department:

- ~~1. A written application which contains the following information about the applicant:
 - ~~a. Name;~~
 - ~~b. Address;~~
 - ~~c. Social security number; and~~
 - ~~d. If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;~~
 - ~~e. A statement describing all:
 - ~~(1) Felony or misdemeanor convictions during the time period since the credential was active;
 - ~~(a) If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, provide copies of:
 - ~~[1] Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~[2] Arrest records;~~
 - ~~[3] A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~[4] All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~[5] A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation.~~~~~~
 - ~~(2) Revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions against any professional credential held by the applicant during the time period since the credential was revoked;
 - ~~(a) If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's credential by another state, submit an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition; and~~
 - ~~(3) Disciplinary charges pending against any professional credential held by the applicant.~~~~~~
 - ~~f. Verification that the continuing competency requirements for renewal have been met;~~~~

~~2. The renewal fee, the late fee of \$35 and any other applicable fees; and~~

~~3. Attestation by the applicant:~~

~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~

~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~

~~(1) If an applicant has practiced after his/her credential was revoked the Department may assess an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020 in which case a notice and opportunity for hearing will be sent to the applicant.~~

~~(2) If an applicant has practiced after his/her credential was revoked, or has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, other action may be taken pursuant to 172 NAC 94-017.06B below.~~

~~The Department will forward the application to the Board for its recommendation pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-110 (5).~~

~~94-017.06A The Board's recommendation to the Department may be to:~~

~~1. Reinstatement of the credential;~~

~~2. Reinstatement of the credential with terms, conditions or restrictions; or~~

~~3. Denial of reinstatement.~~

~~94-017.06B Upon receipt of the Board's recommendation, the Department will, within 150 days, send to the applicant a written notice of the Department's response. The Department may:~~

~~1. Reinstatement of the credential. An Administrative Penalty may be assessed pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020 if warranted;~~

~~2. If the Department determines that the applicant has committed acts or offenses prohibited by Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-147 or 71-148, the Department may:~~

~~a. Reinstatement of the credential with terms, conditions or restrictions. In such case the applicant will be provided notice and the opportunity for hearing before the Department pursuant to the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure and Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920. An Administrative Penalty may be assessed pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020 if warranted; or~~

~~b. Denial of reinstatement. In such case the applicant will be provided notice and the opportunity for hearing before the Department pursuant to the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure and Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

~~94-017.07 Requirements for Reinstatement More Than One Year Following Revocation for Failure to Meet the Renewal Requirements: An applicant for reinstatement who applies more than one year after revocation for failure to meet the renewal requirements must:~~

~~1. Petition the Board for reinstatement pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.05. The petition for reinstatement must be accompanied by:~~

~~a. Verified recommendations from at least two credentialed practitioners of the same profession as the petitioner each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was revoked; and~~

~~b. Verified recommendations from at least two citizens each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was revoked.~~

- ~~2. Meet the renewal requirements, including:
 - ~~a. The continuing competency requirements; and~~
 - ~~b. Paying the renewal fee, the late fee of \$75 and any other applicable fees.~~~~
- ~~3. Attest:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the petitioner has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~~~

~~94-017.08 Procedures for Reinstatement More Than One Year Following Revocation for Failure to Meet Renewal Requirements: An applicant for reinstatement more than one year following revocation for failure to meet renewal requirements must submit to the Board:~~

- ~~1. A petition for reinstatement:
 - ~~a. Stating the reason the petitioner believes his/her credential should be reinstated;~~
 - ~~b. Accompanied by verified recommendations from at least two credentialed practitioners of the same profession as the petitioner each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was revoked; and verified recommendations from at least two citizens each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was revoked.~~
 - ~~c. Containing the following information about the petitioner:
 - ~~(1) Name;~~
 - ~~(2) Address;~~
 - ~~(3) Social security number; and~~
 - ~~(4) If the petitioner holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;~~
 - ~~(5) A statement describing all:
 - ~~(a) Felony or misdemeanor convictions during the time period since the credential was active;
 - ~~[1] If the petitioner has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, provide copies of:
 - ~~[a] Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~[b] Arrest records;~~
 - ~~[c] A letter from the petitioner explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~[d] All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~[e] A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the petitioner is currently on probation.~~~~
 - ~~(b) Revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions against any professional credential held by the petitioner during the time period since the credential was revoked;
 - ~~[1] If any disciplinary action was taken against the petitioner's credential by another state, submit an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and~~~~~~~~~~~~

- disposition; and
- ~~(c) Disciplinary charges pending against any professional credential held by the petitioner.~~
- ~~(6) Verification that the continuing competency requirements for renewal have been met.~~
- ~~2. The renewal fee, the late fee of \$75 and any other applicable fees; and~~
- ~~3. Attestation by the petitioner:~~
- ~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
- ~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the petitioner has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~
- ~~(1) If a petitioner has practiced after his/her credential was revoked the Department may assess an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020 in which case a notice and opportunity for hearing will be sent to the petitioner.~~
- ~~(2) If a petitioner has practiced after his/her credential was revoked, or has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, other action may be taken pursuant to 172 NAC 94-017.08E.~~
- ~~94-017.08A The petition to recommend reinstatement will be considered at the next meeting of the Board that is held, but not earlier than 30 days after the petition is filed.~~
- ~~94-017.08B Any petition to recommend reinstatement of a credential will be conclusively acted upon by the Board within 180 days after the filing of a properly prepared petition and the necessary accompanying documents with the Board.~~
- ~~94-017.08C If the Board recommends reinstatement of the credential, no public hearing need be held on the petition.~~
- ~~94-017.08D Prior to any recommendation by the Board against reinstatement of the credential, an opportunity for a formal public hearing on the petition must be granted by the Board, if formally requested by the petitioner.~~
- ~~94-017.08D1 The petitioner's request for a formal hearing must be submitted within 30 days of the Board's notification of an opportunity for a formal public hearing.~~
- ~~94-017.08E If the petitioner formally requests a formal public hearing or if the Board otherwise holds such a hearing, the petitioner will be given at least 30 days prior notice by sending to the petitioner a copy of the notice of hearing by certified or registered mail at his/her last known residence or business post office address as shown by the files or records of the Department or as otherwise known. Notice may be given to the petitioner by personal service. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to 172 NAC 1-~~
- ~~94-017.08F The Board will review the petition to recommend reinstatement and the record of any hearing held, and submits its recommendation regarding reinstatement and the record on which such recommendation is made to the Department within 180 days of receipt of the petition to recommend reinstatement.~~
- ~~94-017.08F1 If the Board recommends reinstatement of the credential, the Department may:~~
- ~~1. Accept the Board's recommendation and grant reinstatement of the credential.~~
- ~~2. If the Department determines that the Board's recommendation is: in excess of statutory authority; made upon unlawful procedure;~~

~~unsupported by competent, material, and substantial evidence; or arbitrary or capricious, the Department may not accept the Board's recommendation and either:~~

- ~~a. Deny reinstatement of the credential, or~~
- ~~b. Grant reinstatement with terms, conditions, or restrictions.~~

~~94-017.08F2 If the Board recommends denial of reinstatement, the Board will send to the petitioner a written notice of the Board's recommendation. The petitioner may appeal the Board's decision to the District Court of Lancaster County pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

~~94-017.08F3 If the Board recommends reinstatement with terms, conditions, or restrictions, the Department may:~~

- ~~1. Accept the Board's recommendation and grant reinstatement with terms, conditions, or restrictions; or~~
- ~~2. Not accept the Board's recommendation and either:
 - ~~a. Deny reinstatement of the credential; or~~
 - ~~b. Grant reinstatement of the credential.~~~~

~~94-017.08F4 The Department will, within 150 days of receipt of the Board's recommendation, send to the petitioner a written notice of the Department's reinstatement with or without terms, conditions, or restrictions or denial of reinstatement of the credential.~~

~~94-017.08F5 The petitioner may appeal the Department's decision to the District Court of Lancaster County pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

~~94-017.09 Requirements to Reinstate a Credential Following Suspension, Limitation, or Revocation for Disciplinary Reasons: An applicant for reinstatement following suspension, limitation, or revocation for disciplinary reasons must meet the following requirements:~~

- ~~1. Petition the Board for reinstatement;
 - ~~a. The petition for reinstatement must be accompanied by
 - ~~(1) verified recommendations from at least two credentialed practitioners of the same profession as the petitioner each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked; and~~
 - ~~(2) verified recommendations from at least two citizens each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked.~~~~~~
- ~~2. Pay the reinstatement fee of \$75, and other profession-specific requirements if expressly set by law;~~
- ~~3. If the credential was revoked or suspended, attest:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the petitioner has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~~~

~~94-017.10 Procedures for Reinstatement Following Suspension, Limitation, or Revocation for Disciplinary Reasons: An applicant for reinstatement following suspension, limitation, or revocation for disciplinary reasons must submit to the Board:~~

- ~~1. A petition for reinstatement:
 - ~~a. Stating the reason the petitioner believes his/her credential should be reinstated;~~
 - ~~b. Accompanied by verified recommendations from at least two credentialed~~~~

- ~~practitioners of the same profession as the petitioner each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked; and verified recommendations from at least two citizens each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked.~~
- ~~c. Containing the following information about the petitioner:~~
- ~~(1) Name;~~
 - ~~(2) Address;~~
 - ~~(3) Social security number; and~~
 - ~~(4) If the petitioner holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;~~
 - ~~(5) A statement describing all:
 - ~~(a) Felony or misdemeanor convictions during the time period since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked;
 - ~~[1] If the petitioner has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, provide copies of:
 - ~~[a] Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~[b] Arrest records;~~
 - ~~[c] A letter from the petitioner explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~[d] All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~[e] A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the petitioner is currently on probation.~~~~~~
 - ~~(b) Revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions against any professional credential held by the petitioner during the time period since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked;
 - ~~[1] If any disciplinary action was taken against the petitioner's credential by another state, submit an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition; and~~~~
 - ~~(c) Disciplinary charges pending against any professional credential held by the petitioner;~~~~
 - ~~(6) Any continuing competency activities.~~
- ~~2. The reinstatement fee of \$75; and~~
 - ~~3. Attestation by the petitioner, if the credential was revoked or suspended:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the petitioner has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.
 - ~~(1) If a petitioner has practiced after his/her credential was revoked the Department may assess an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020 in which case a separate notice and opportunity for hearing will be sent to the petitioner.~~~~~~

~~(2) If a petitioner has practiced after his/her credential was revoked, or has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, other action may be taken pursuant to 172 NAC 94-017.10F.~~

~~94-017.10A The Board will make a recommendation to the Director regarding reinstatement following disciplinary action. In determining whether reinstatement should be recommended, the Board may:~~

- ~~1. Request the Department investigate all activities of the petitioner since the disciplinary action was taken against him/her, including activities prohibited by Neb. Rev. Stat. §§71-147 and 71-148.~~
- ~~2. Require the petitioner to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more physicians appointed by the Board, the petitioner being free also to consult a physician or physicians of his/her own choice for a complete diagnostic examination and make available a report or reports thereof to the Board;~~
- ~~3. Require the petitioner to pass a written, oral, or practical examination or any combination of such examinations; or~~
- ~~4. Require the petitioner to complete additional education.~~

~~94-017.10B The petition to recommend reinstatement will be considered at the next meeting of the Board that is held, but not earlier than 30 days after the petition is filed.~~

~~94-017.10C Any petition to recommend reinstatement of a credential will be conclusively acted upon by the Board within 180 days after the filing of a properly prepared petition and the necessary accompanying documents with the Board.~~

~~94-017.10D If the Board recommends reinstatement of the credential, no public hearing need be held on the petition.~~

~~94-017.10E Prior to any recommendation by the Board against reinstatement of the credential, an opportunity for a formal public hearing on the petition must be granted by the Board, if formally requested by the petitioner.~~

~~94-017.10E1 The petitioner's request for a formal hearing must be submitted within 30 days of the Board's notification of an opportunity for a formal public hearing.~~

~~94-017.10E2 If the petitioner had a hearing or an opportunity for a hearing on a prior petition to recommend reinstatement filed pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.04 within a period of two years immediately preceding the filing of such petition, the Board may grant or deny, without a hearing, any petition to recommend reinstatement filed pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.04.~~

~~94-017.10F If the petitioner formally requests a formal public hearing or if the Board otherwise holds such a hearing, the petitioner will be given at least 30 days prior notice by sending to the petitioner a copy of the notice of hearing by certified or registered mail at his/her last known residence or business post office address as shown by the files or records of the Department or as otherwise known. Notice may be given to the petitioner by personal service. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to 172 NAC 1-~~

~~94-017.10G The Board reviews the petition to recommend reinstatement, any examination or investigatory information and the record of hearing, if one was held. The Board will submit its recommendation to the Director within 180 days of receipt of the petition to recommend reinstatement.~~

~~94-017.10G1 If the Board recommends reinstatement of the credential:~~

- ~~1. The Board will send its recommendation to the petitioner by certified mail along with notification that the petitioner must file an application~~

for reinstatement with the Director.

- ~~2. The petitioner must submit, to the Department, an application for reinstatement by the Director within 30 days of receipt of the Board's recommendation.~~
 - ~~a. The application must include:
 - ~~(1) Name of the petitioner; and~~
 - ~~(2) Signed statement that the petitioner requests the Director to issue the credential in accordance with the Board's recommendation for reinstatement.~~~~
 - ~~3. Upon receipt of the application for reinstatement from the petitioner, the Department will submit the following to the Director:~~
 - ~~a. The application;~~
 - ~~b. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;~~
 - ~~c. The petition submitted to the Board;~~
 - ~~d. The record of hearing, if any;~~
 - ~~e. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the petitioner.~~
 - ~~4. The Director will issue a decision regarding reinstatement within 150 days of receipt of the petitioner's application for reinstatement. The Director's decision will be based upon a review of the record of the proceedings before the Board. The Director will not hold a second hearing. The Director may affirm, reverse or modify the Board's recommendation. A decision by the Director to reverse or modify the Board's recommendation will be based on finding that the Board's recommendation is: in excess of statutory authority, made upon unlawful procedure, unsupported by competent, material, and substantial evidence in view of the entire record, or arbitrary or capricious.~~
 - ~~a. When the Director affirms, modifies or reverses the Board's recommendation for reinstatement, the Director will enter an Order setting forth the decision regarding reinstatement of the petitioner's credential. The order will be sent by certified mail to the petitioner;~~
 - ~~b. If the petitioner does not accept the Director's decision, s/he may appeal such decision to the District Court of Lancaster~~
- ~~94-017.10G2~~ If the Board recommends reinstatement of the credential with terms, conditions, or restrictions:
- ~~1. The Board will send its recommendation to the petitioner by certified mail along with notification that the petitioner must file an application for reinstatement with the Director.~~
 - ~~2. The petitioner must submit, to the Department, an application for reinstatement by the Director within 30 days of receipt of the Board's recommendation.~~
 - ~~a. The application must include:
 - ~~(1) Name of the petitioner; and~~
 - ~~(2) Signed statement that the petitioner requests the Director to issue the credential in accordance with the~~~~

Board's recommendation for reinstatement.

- ~~3. Upon receipt of the application for reinstatement from the petitioner, the Department will submit the following to the Director:~~
- ~~a. The application;~~
 - ~~b. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;~~
 - ~~c. The petition submitted to the Board;~~
 - ~~d. The record of hearing, if any;~~
 - ~~e. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the petitioner.~~
- ~~4. The Director will issue a decision regarding reinstatement within 150 days of receipt of the petitioner's application for reinstatement. The Director's decision will be based upon a review of the record of the proceedings before the Board. The Director will not hold a second hearing. The Director may affirm, reverse or modify the Board's recommendation. A decision by the Director to reverse or modify the Board's recommendation will be based on finding that the Board's recommendation is: in excess of statutory authority, made upon unlawful procedure, unsupported by competent, material, and substantial evidence in view of the entire record, or arbitrary or capricious.~~
- ~~a. When the Director affirms, modifies or reverses the Board's recommendation for reinstatement, the Director will enter an Order setting forth the decision regarding reinstatement of the petitioner's credential. The order will be sent by certified mail to the petitioner;~~
 - ~~b. If the petitioner does not accept the Director's decision, s/he may appeal such decision to the District Court of Lancaster County pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

~~94-017.10G3 If the Board denies reinstatement, the Board will send to the petitioner a written notice of the Board's recommendation to deny reinstatement. The petitioner may appeal the Board's decision to the District Court of Lancaster County pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

94-017.11 Procedures for Restoration of Credentials Voluntarily Surrendered or Limited for an Indefinite Period of Time

94-017.11A Credentials voluntarily surrendered or limited for an indefinite period of time pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-161.11 may be restored at the discretion of the Department.

94-017.11A1 An applicant for restoration of a credential that was voluntarily surrendered or limited for an indefinite period of time must submit to the Department:

1. A written application which contains the following information about the applicant:
 - ~~a. Name;~~
 - ~~b. Address;~~
 - ~~c. Social security number; and~~
 - ~~d. If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;~~
 - ~~e. A statement describing all:
 - (1) Felony or misdemeanor convictions during the time~~

- period since the credential was active;
- ~~(a) If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, provide copies of:~~
- ~~[1] Official Court Record, which includes charges~~
- ~~and disposition;~~
- ~~[2] Arrest records;~~
- ~~[3] A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
- ~~[4] All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
- ~~[5] A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation.~~
- ~~(2) Revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions against any professional credential held by the applicant during the time period since the credential was active;~~
- ~~(a) If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's credential by another state, submit an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition; and~~
- ~~(3) Disciplinary charges pending against any professional credential held by the applicant.~~
- ~~f. Any continuing competency activities.~~
- ~~g. An attestation by the applicant:~~
- ~~(1) That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska prior to the voluntary surrender of his/her credential; or~~
- ~~(2) To the actual number of days practiced if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska prior to the voluntary surrender of his/her credential.~~
- ~~94-017.11A2 If an applicant has practiced while his/her credential was voluntarily surrendered, the Department may:~~
- ~~1. Assess an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020;~~
- ~~2. Initiate disciplinary action against the credential;~~
- ~~3. Deny the request to restore the credential; or~~
- ~~4. Restore the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other sanctions on the credential.~~
- ~~94-017.11A3 If an applicant has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential while his/her credential was voluntarily surrendered or limited, the Department may:~~
- ~~1. Initiate disciplinary action against the credential;~~
- ~~2. Deny the request for restoration of the credential; or~~
- ~~3. Restore the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other sanctions on the credential.~~

~~94-017.11A4~~ In either event pursuant to 172 NAC 94-017.11A2 or 94-017.11A3, a notice and the opportunity for hearing will be given to the applicant.

~~94-017.11A5~~ The Department will act within 150 days on all completed applications.

94-017.12 Procedures for Restoration of Credentials Voluntarily Surrendered or Limited for a Specific and Definite Period of Time

94-017.12A Credentials voluntarily surrendered or limited for a specific and definite period of time as agreed to between the holder and Department pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.11 will be automatically restored at the expiration of that period of time.

~~94-017.12B~~ If an individual has practiced while his/her credential was voluntarily surrendered for a specific and definite period of time, the Department may assess an Administrative Penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-020.

~~94-017.13 Credentials Voluntarily Surrendered or Limited Permanently:~~ Credentials that are voluntarily surrendered or limited permanently pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.11 will not be restored.

94-018 DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

94-017 REINSTATEMENT: This section applies to individuals previously credentialed in Nebraska who seek the authority to return to practice in Nebraska with a valid Nebraska credential. Individuals may apply for reinstatement as follows:

1. An individual whose credential has expired, been placed on inactive status, voluntarily surrendered for an indefinite period of time, or suspended or limited for disciplinary reasons, may apply for reinstatement at any time.
2. An individual whose credential has been voluntarily surrendered for a definite period of time may apply for reinstatement after that period of time has elapsed.
3. An individual whose credential has been revoked may apply for reinstatement only after a period of two years has elapsed from the date of revocation.
4. An individual whose credential has been permanently voluntarily surrendered may not apply for reinstatement.

The voluntary surrender of a credential may be unrelated to disciplinary matters, or may be done to resolve a pending disciplinary matter, in lieu of disciplinary action, or in response to a notice of disciplinary action.

94-017.01 Reinstatement From Expired or Inactive Status or Following Voluntary Surrender Unrelated to a Disciplinary Matter

The applicant must submit to the Department a written application on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the applicant.

1. Application: The applicant must attest that all information in the application is truthful and complete, and the applicant, in his/her application:
 - a. Must provide the following information:
 - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;

(2) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code or country information);

(3) The applicant's:

(a) Social Security Number (SSN); or

(b) Alien Registration Number (A#); or

(c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number.

Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.

(4) If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;

b. Must state that s/he is one of the following:

(1) A citizen of the United States;

(2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or

(3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

If the applicant is an alien or non-immigrant, s/he must submit evidence of lawful permanent residence and/or immigration status which may include a copy of:

(1) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");

(2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;

(3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or

(4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;

c. May provide the following information about him/herself:

(1) Telephone number including area code;

(2) E-mail address;

(3) Fax number; and

d. Must indicate that s/he:

(1) Is of good character;

(2) Has met the continuing competency requirements specified in 172 NAC 94-013 within the 24 months immediately preceding submission of the application (or other requirements as specified by the practice act);

(3) Has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, or if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, the actual number of days practiced;

(4) Has not committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 94-015 since the last renewal or issuance of the credential (whichever is later), or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and

(5) Is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the

federal Immigration and Nationality Act, for the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her USCIS documentation upon request; and

2. Fee(s): The following fee(s):
 - a. If the credential is expired or inactive, the reinstatement and renewal fees; or
 - b. If the credential was voluntarily surrendered, the renewal fee.

94-017.01A If an applicant has practiced while his/her credential was expired, inactive, or voluntarily surrendered, the Department may, with the recommendation of the Board, take one or more of the following actions:

1. Assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-018, in which case a separate notice of opportunity for hearing will be sent to the applicant;
2. Deny the application to reinstate the credential;
3. Reinstate the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other disciplinary actions on the credential; and/or
4. Reinstate the credential.

94-017.01B If an applicant has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, the Department may:

1. Deny the application for reinstatement of the credential;
2. Reinstate the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other disciplinary actions on the credential; and/or
3. Reinstate the credential.

94-017.01C The Department will act within 150 days on all completed applications.

94-017.01D The Department's decision may be appealed to the Director by any party to the decision. The appeal must be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

94-017.02 Reinstatement from Non-Disciplinary Revocation or Lapsed Status: An individual whose credential was placed on non-disciplinary revocation or lapsed status before December 1, 2008 may apply for reinstatement as provided in 172 NAC 94-017.01.

94-017.03 Reinstatement Following Suspension, Limitation, Revocation, or Voluntary Surrender to Resolve a Pending Disciplinary Matter, In Lieu of Discipline, or In Response to a Notice of Disciplinary Action: An individual whose credential was suspended or limited may apply for reinstatement at any time. An individual whose credential has been revoked may apply for reinstatement after a period of two years has elapsed from the date of revocation. An individual whose credential was voluntarily surrendered may apply for reinstatement according to the order entered by the Director.

The applicant must submit to the Board a written application on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the applicant.

1. Application: The applicant must attest that all information in the application is truthful and complete, and the applicant, in his/her application:
 - a. Must provide the following information:
 - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
 - (2) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code or country information);
 - (3) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN); or
 - (b) Alien Registration Number (A#); or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number.Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
 - (4) If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;
 - (5) A statement of the reason the applicant believes his/her credential should be reinstated;
 - b. Must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (1) A citizen of the United States;
 - (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to such employment in the United States;

If the applicant is an alien or non-immigrant, s/he must submit evidence of lawful permanent residence and/or immigration status which may include a copy of:

 - (1) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
 - (4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
 - c. May provide the following information about him/herself:
 - (1) Telephone number including area code;
 - (2) E-mail address;
 - (3) Fax number; and
 - d. Must indicate that s/he:
 - (1) Is of good character;
 - (2) Has met the continuing competency requirements specified in 172 NAC 94-013 within the 24 months immediately preceding submission of the application (or other requirements as specified by the practice act);

- (3) Has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, or if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, the actual number of days practiced;
- (4) Has not committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 94-015 since the last renewal or issuance of the credential (whichever is later), or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and
- (5) Is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, for the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her USCIS documentation upon request; and

2. Fee: The renewal fee.

94-017.03A The Board will make a recommendation regarding reinstatement following suspension, limitation, revocation, or voluntary surrender within 180 days of receipt of the application.

94-017.03B The Department, with the recommendation of the Board, may:

1. Conduct an investigation to determine if the applicant has committed acts or offenses prohibited by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-178;
2. Require the applicant to submit to a complete diagnostic examination, at the expense of the applicant, by one or more physician(s) or other professionals appointed by the Board. The applicant may also consult a physician(s) or other professionals of his/her own choice for a complete diagnostic examination and make available a report(s) of the examination(s) to the Department and to the Board;
3. Require the applicant to pass a written, oral, or practical examination or any combination of examinations at the expense of the applicant;
4. Require the applicant to successfully complete additional education at the expense of the applicant;
5. Require the applicant to successfully pass an inspection of his/her practice site; or
6. Take any combination of these actions.

94-017.03C On the basis of the written application, materials submitted by the applicant, and the information obtained under 172 NAC 94-017.03B, the Board may:

1. Deny the application for reinstatement; or
2. Recommend to the Department:
 - a. Full reinstatement of the credential;
 - b. Modification of the suspension or limitation; or
 - c. Reinstatement subject to limitations or subject to probation

with terms and conditions.

If the applicant has practiced while his/her credential was suspended, limited, revoked, or voluntarily surrendered, the Department may assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 94-018, in which case a separate notice of opportunity for hearing will be sent to the applicant.

94-017.03D An affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the Board as authorized by statute is required to recommend reinstatement of a credential with or without terms, conditions, or restrictions.

94-017.03E Full Reinstatement: If the Board recommends full reinstatement of the credential, modification of the suspension or limitation, or reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or subject to probation with terms and conditions, the Board's recommendation will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The following information will be forwarded to the Director for a decision:

1. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;
2. The application for reinstatement;
3. The record of hearing, if any; and
4. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the applicant.

94-017.03F Denial, Modification, Limitation, or Probation: If the Board's initial decision is to deny the application for reinstatement, recommend modification of the suspension or limitation, or reinstate the credential subject to limitation or probation with terms and conditions, notification of the Board's decision will be mailed to the applicant by certified mail.

1. The initial decision or recommendation of the Board will become final 30 days after the decision or recommendation is mailed to the applicant unless the applicant requests a hearing within that 30-day period.
 - a. If the applicant requests a hearing before the Board, the Department will mail a notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing. The notice will be sent by certified mail at least 30 days before the hearing.
 - b. Following the hearing, the Board may deny the reinstatement or recommend full reinstatement of the credential, or recommend modification of the suspension or limitation, or recommend reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or probation with terms and conditions.
2. If the applicant has been afforded a hearing or an opportunity for a hearing on an application for reinstatement within two years before filing the current application, the Department may grant or deny the

application without another hearing before the Board.

94-017.03G Denial Decision: If the Board's final decision is denial of the application for reinstatement, the applicant will be notified by certified mail. The applicant may appeal the Board's denial to District Court in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

94-017.03H Board Recommendation: If the Board's final recommendation is full reinstatement of the credential, modification of the suspension or limitation, or reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or probation with terms and conditions, the Board's recommendation will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The following information will be forwarded to the Director for a decision:

1. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;
2. The application for reinstatement;
3. The record of hearing, if any; and
4. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the applicant.

94-017.03I Director's Review: The Director, upon receipt of the Board's recommendation for full reinstatement, modification, or probation, will review the application and other documents and make a decision within 150 days of receipt of the Board's recommendation and accompanying documents. The Director will enter an order setting forth the decision. The Director may:

1. Affirm the recommendation of the Board and grant reinstatement; or
2. Reverse or modify the recommendation if the Board's recommendation is:
 - a. In excess of statutory authority;
 - b. Made upon unlawful procedure;
 - c. Unsupported by competent, material, and substantial evidence in view of the entire record; or
 - d. Arbitrary and capricious.

The order regarding reinstatement of the applicant's credential will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The Director's decision may be appealed to District Court by any party to the decision. The appeal must be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

94-018 ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY: The Department may assess an administrative penalty when evidence exists that a person or entity practices without a license of practice without a credential to practice a profession or operate a business. Practice without a ~~license~~ credential for the purpose of this regulation means practice:

1. Prior to the issuance of a ~~license~~ credential;
2. Following the expiration of a ~~license~~ credential; or

3. Prior to the reinstatement of a license credential.

94-020018.01 Evidence of Practice: The Department will consider any of the following conditions as prima facie evidence of practice without a license being credentialed:

1. The person admits to engaging in practice;
2. Staffing records or other reports from the employer of the person indicate that the person was engaged in practice;
3. Billing or payment records document the provision of service, care, or treatment by the person;
4. Service, care, or treatment records document the provision of service, care, or treatment by the person;
5. Appointment records indicate that the person was engaged in practice; or and
6. The person opens a business or practice site and announces or advertises that the business or site is open to provide service, care, or treatment.

For purposes of this regulation, prima facie evidence means a fact presumed to be true unless disproved by some evidence to the contrary.

94-020018.02 Penalty: The Department may assess an administrative penalty in the amount of \$10 per day, not to exceed a total of \$1,000 for practice without a license credential. To assess such the penalty, the Department will:

- 1.- Provide written notice of the assessment to the person. The notice must will specify:
 - a. The total amount of the administrative penalty;
 - b. The evidence on which the administrative penalty is based;
 - c. That the person may request, in writing, a hearing to contest the assessment of an administrative penalty;
 - d. That the Department will within 30 days following receipt of payment of the administrative penalty, transmit remit the penalty to the State Treasurer for credit to the Permanent School Fund to be disposed of in accordance with Article VII, section 5 of the Constitution of Nebraska; and
 - e. That an unpaid administrative penalty constitutes a debt to the State of Nebraska which may be collected in the manner of a lien foreclosure or sued for and recovered in a proper form of action in the name of the state in the District Court of the county in which the violator resides or owns property. The Department may also collect in such action attorney's fees and costs incurred directly in the collection of the administrative penalty.
2. Send by certified mail, a written notice of the administrative penalty to the last known address of the person to whom the penalty is assessed.

94-020018.03 -Administrative Hearing: When a person contests the administrative penalty

and requests a hearing, the Department will hold a hearing pursuant to ~~Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920~~ the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's ~~rules~~ Rules of Practice and regulations adopted pursuant to these statutes. Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

94-019 FEES: Fees referred to in these regulations are set out in 172 NAC 2, unless otherwise specified.

94-019 SCHEDULE OF FEES: The following fees have been set by the Department:

94-019.01 Initial and Reciprocity License/Certificate Fee: By an applicant for a license/certificate the following fees, the Licensee Assistance Program fee \$2, and The actual cost of the national standardized examination:

1. ~~Mental Health Practice License: \$50~~
2. ~~Marriage and Family Therapy Certificate: \$25~~
3. ~~Professional Counseling Certificate: \$25~~
4. ~~Master Social Work Certificate: \$25~~
5. ~~Social Work Certificate: \$25~~

94-019.02 Provisional License/Certificate Fee: By an applicant for a provisional license/certificate, the following fees:

1. ~~Provisional Mental Health Practice License: \$25~~
2. ~~Provisional Master Social Work Certificate: \$25~~

94-019.03 Pro-rated Initial License/Certificate Fee: For issuance of a credential that will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the fee of \$25 and the Licensee Assistance Program fee of \$1 (this does not apply to provisional licensure/certification).

94-019.04 License/Certificate Renewal Fee: By an applicant for renewal on a biennial basis of a credential the following fees and the Licensee Assistance Program fee of \$2:

1. ~~Mental Health Practice License: \$50~~
2. ~~Marriage and Family Therapy Certificate: \$25~~
3. ~~Professional Counseling Certificate: \$25~~
4. ~~Master Social Work Certificate: \$25~~
5. ~~Social Work Certificate: \$25~~

94-019.05 Inactive License/Certificate Status Fee: By an applicant to have his/her credential placed on inactive status, the fee of \$25.

94-019.06 Renewal Late Fee: By an applicant for renewal on a biennial basis of a credential, who fails to pay the renewal fee on or before the expiration date of his/her credential, the fee of \$25 as a late fee in addition to the renewal fee.

94-019.07 Certification of License/Certificate Fee: For issuance of a certification of a credential, the fee of \$25. The certification includes information regarding:

4. ~~The basis on which a credential was issued;~~
5. ~~The date of issuance;~~
6. ~~Whether disciplinary action has been taken against the credential; and~~
7. ~~The current status of the credential.~~

94-019.08 Verification of License/Certificate Fee: For issuance of a verification of a credential, the fee of \$5. The verification includes written confirmation as to whether a credential was valid at the time the request was made.

94-019.09 Duplicate License/Certificate Fee: For a duplicate of an original license/certificate document or reissued license or certificate, the fee of \$10.

94-019.10 Administrative Fee: For a denied credential or a withdrawn application, the administrative fee of \$25 will be retained by the Department, except if the credentialing fee is

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~~less than \$25, the fee will be forfeited and an examination fee will not be returned.~~

~~94-019.11 Reinstatement Late Fee: For reinstatement of a credential for failure to meet renewal requirements:~~

- ~~_____ 1. Within one year, the fee of \$35 in addition to the renewal fee.~~
- ~~_____ 2. After one year of revocation, the fee of \$75 in addition to the renewal fee.~~

~~94-019.12 Reinstatement Fee: For reinstatement following suspension, limitation or revocation for disciplinary reasons, the fee of \$75.~~

~~These Amended Rules and Regulations Replace: Title 172 Chapter 94, Regulations Governing the Licensure of Mental Health Practitioners and the Certification of Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, and Social Workers, effective ~~October 26, 1996~~July 28, 2004.~~

~~Repeal: Title 172 Chapter 93, Fee Regulations for the Licensure of Mental Health Practitioners and the Certifications as a Marriage and Family Therapist, Professional Counselor and Social Worker.~~

Approved by the Attorney General: ~~_____ July 20, 2004 _____~~

Approved by the Governor: ~~_____ July 23, 2004 _____~~

Filed with the Secretary of State: ~~_____ July 23, 2004 _____~~

Approved by the Governor: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: ~~_____~~ **July 28, 2004**

~~The forms referred to in the body of these regulations are available upon request.~~