



MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

Civil Commitment Certification

(From the Rules and Regulations)

ARTICLE VII CIVIL COMMITMENT CERTIFICATION

SECTION 7.1: CIVIL COMMITMENT CERTIFICATION. The Board is empowered to recognize and certify those psychologists who are qualified to perform civil commitment evaluations for the chancery court, under the provisions of Section 41-21-61 of the Mississippi Code.

SECTION 7.2: CRITERIA OF ELIGIBILITY

In order to be certified, the applicant must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. The psychologist must possess a permanent license to practice psychology in Mississippi and have met educational program and internship requirements in a clinical practice area appropriate to certification to perform civil commitment examinations, or present to the Board documentation sufficient to establish that the psychologist possesses qualifications and experience to perform civil commitment evaluations.
- b. The Board must be satisfied that the psychologist possesses appropriate skill in making a proper diagnosis of the presence or absence of mental illness.
- c. The Board must be satisfied with the applicant's competence in understanding the civil commitment law, and the ethical implications of involuntary civil commitment.
- d. The requirement set forth in (c), above, will be accomplished by means of a written examination, and a written performance sample examination.

SECTION 7.3: CIVIL COMMITMENT CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION. Upon receipt of a request of a licensed psychologist who appears to meet the criteria set forth in Section 7.2(a), approval by the Board, and payment of the examination fee set by the Board, the Credentialing Coordinator will schedule the applicant for the next administration of the certification examination. Such examination shall be scheduled annually or more frequently if the number of applicants warrants.

SECTION 7.4: QUESTIONABLE CREDENTIALS. If the applicant is found ineligible for certification, the applicant will be so notified by the Executive Secretary. Such notification will take place within thirty (30) days of the day the Board made the decision, and will be by certified mail. An applicant so notified shall have a period of thirty (30) days following notification in order to file with the Board a written request for reconsideration. Such written request shall include the specific reasons for which reconsideration is requested.

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SECTION 7.5: EVALUATION OF EXAMINATIONS. The Credentialing Coordinator or other psychologist designated by the Board will score the written examination. In order to pass, the applicant must attain at least 75% correct. The examiner will also score the performance sample examination on a pass or fail basis. A second reviewer, appointed by the Credentialing Coordinator (or other designated psychologist from the Board) will also score the written performance sample examination. To pass the examination, the applicant must receive a passing score from both reviewers. Should the two (2) reviewers not agree, the Credentialing Coordinator will appoint a third reviewer. The majority opinion of three (3) reviewers will determine the outcome of the examination.

The Credentialing Coordinator will report the outcome of the examination to the Executive Secretary within thirty (30) days following examination, and the results will be ratified by the Board.

SECTION 7.6: NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANT. Within fourteen (14) days following notification of examination results from the Credentialing Coordinator, the Executive Secretary shall notify all applicants of the outcome of their examination. The Executive Secretary shall issue a certificate to applicants passing both sections of the examination. An applicant who fails one or both sections of the examination will be notified of the failure and that they may retake the failed section(s) at the next administration of the certification examination. The Executive Secretary shall report the outcome of each applicant's examination at the next meeting of the Board and these results shall become a part of the official minutes of that meeting.

SECTION 7.7: REPEATED FAILURES. If the applicant fails the civil commitment examination two times, reexamination will be deferred for two years. If the failed applicant wishes to take the exam a third time, they must first obtain relevant supervision and training and provide the Board with documentation of such training. After three failures, the applicant will be excluded from further consideration.

THE CIVIL COMMITMENT CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP IS OFFERED AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

IF YOU WISH TO APPLY FOR CIVIL COMMITMENT CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMINATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE BOARD

