

## 54 N.J.R. 285(a)

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Reporter

54 N.J.R. 285(a)

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#### Agency

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LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY > DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

#### Administrative Code Citation

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N.J.A.C. 13:34-13.1

#### Text

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##### Notice of Action on Petition for Rulemaking

##### Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners

##### Professional Counselor Examiners Committee

Petitioner: Thomas Blake Hollenbach, Ph.D., Director, Integrative Therapy Institute of New Jersey.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 45:8B-13.

**Take notice** that on November 15, 2021, the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee of the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (Committee) received a petition for rulemaking from Thomas Blake Hollenbach, Ph.D., Director, Integrative Therapy Institute of New Jersey, requesting that the Committee amend N.J.A.C. 13:34-13.1(d), which provides that a written supervision plan must be approved by the Committee before a licensed associate counselor may begin performing counseling services. The petitioner requests that the Committee amend N.J.A.C. 13:34-13.1(d) to permit the Committee, at its discretion, to count clinical hours obtained before the submission of the proposed plan of supervision toward the number of supervised hours required to become a licensed professional counselor in an effort to increase the supply of therapists to meet increased demand for therapy.

A notice acknowledging receipt of the petition was published in the January 3, 2022, New Jersey Register at 54 N.J.R. 104(a). In accordance with applicable law, the petition was duly considered at a public meeting of the Committee on December 2, 2021. The petitioner requests adding a sentence at

N.J.A.C. 13:34-13.1(d) stating, "The Committee may also, at its discretion, approve clinical hours obtained before the submission of the proposed plan of supervision, if those clinical hours are properly documented and follow all the requirements in (c)." Upon due deliberation, the Committee determined to deny the petition because it is contrary to the applicable statute. N.J.S.A. 45:8B-50 provides: "No licensed associate counselor shall practice without direct supervision by a licensed professional counselor or a supervisor acceptable to the committee. The plan for supervision of the licensed associate counselor shall be approved by the committee prior to any actual performance of counseling by the licensed associate counselor." Because the proposed amendment would allow the Committee to approve clinical hours obtained prior to the approval of a plan of supervision in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-50, it is outside the Committee's authority.

A copy of this notice is being mailed to the petitioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2.

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