

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

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Reporter

54 N.J.R. 285(b)

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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. 13:34-11.6**

#### 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-130.

**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. 13:34-11.6(a), which requires an applicant for licensure to submit proof that the applicant has passed the applicable examination. (The Committee notes that the petition proposes an amendment to N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.7(a), but the regulation at issue is N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.6(a). Accordingly, the Committee will treat the petition as a request to amend N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.6(a).)

The petitioner requests that N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.6(a) be amended to permit an applicant to submit proof of passing the required exam within one year of the date of application 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(b). In accordance with applicable law, the petition was duly considered at a public meeting of the Committee on December 2, 2021. The petitioner requests amending N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.6(a) by adding the italicized phrase, as follows: "In addition to the requirements listed in N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.5, an applicant for licensure as an associate counselor shall submit proof to the Committee *within one year following the date of application* that the applicant has successfully passed the National Counselor Examination (NCE), or its successor, administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) or its successor." Upon due deliberation, the Committee determined to deny the petition because it is contrary to the applicable statute. N.J.S.A. 45:8B-41 provides: "Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the committee that he ... d. Has passed the National Counselor Examination of the National Board for Certified Counselors." Accordingly, as N.J.S.A. 45:8B-41 requires that the applicant submit proof of having passed the applicable examination with the application, the proposed amendment 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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