

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY,  
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WORK EXAMINING BOARD**

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December 5, 2013

Representative Stephen Nass  
Room 12 West  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Nass,

Let me begin by sincerely thanking you for taking the time to meet on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. My colleagues from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) and I greatly appreciated having some time with you to further discuss Clearinghouse Rule 13-009 (outlining the educational requirements equivalent to a Master's degree in Professional Counseling). As we discussed, this rule shifts the educational requirement from 42-semester hours in a degree equivalent to professional counseling (the current rule), to a 60-semester hour degree equivalent to professional counseling; the effective date for this rule would be September 1, 2018.

From our discussion, there were concerns regarding reciprocity and what might happen to licensed counselors from out-of-state who had obtained a counseling degree less than 60 semester hours, yet who wanted to obtain a Wisconsin counseling license. The point was made that the rule addressing reciprocity is actually contained in MPSW 11, and is therefore not alluded to in Clearinghouse Rule 13-009.

With that said, I want to clarify to you and your colleagues on the Committee on Colleges and Universities that our Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board has a Scope Statement in place to address revision of MPSW 11, 12, and 14 (all related to Professional Counseling). Moreover, I want to ensure the Committee that as we move forward with our rule revisions and amending the rule concerning reciprocity in MPSW 11.04, we will be sure to allow for reciprocity based on counseling experience of applicants in addition to assessing reciprocity based on education. Simply put, experienced counselors (with less than a 60-hour degree) who hold an active license in good standing in another state should not face unnecessary boundaries in obtaining a Wisconsin license and providing needed services within Wisconsin.

Again, it was a pleasure meeting with you, and please know that your time and input are sincerely appreciated. If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

All the very best,

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