

Licensure

A current South Carolina license is required to practice in this state.

Persons exempt from the licensure requirement are listed in Section 40-75-290:

(1) salaried employees performing duties for which they were trained and hired solely within a federal, state, county, or local:

- (a) governmental agency;
- (b) licensed mental health or alcohol or drug abuse facility;
- (c) accredited academic institutions;
- (d) licensed, formally accredited nonprofit agencies; or
- (e) research institutions.

(2) persons pursuing a course of study in a regionally accredited educational or training facility as a formal part of a process to obtain a license associated with this article, if the services constitute a part of a supervised course of study;

(3) nonresidents, appropriately licensed or credentialed in their home state, who offer services within this State, if these services are performed for no more than five days a month, and no more than thirty days in any calendar year;

(4) volunteers accountable to a sponsoring agency;

(5) qualified members of other professionals licensed in this State including, but not limited to, attorneys, physicians, psychologists, registered nurses, or social workers performing duties consistent with the laws of this State, their training, and any code of ethics of their profession if they do not represent themselves as being licensed pursuant to this article;

(6) a minister, priest, rabbi, or clergy person of any religious denomination or sect, when the activities are within the scope of performance of his or her regular or specialized ministerial duties, and no fee is received by him or her; or when these activities are performed, with or without compensation, by a person under the auspices or sponsorship of an established church, denomination, or sect and when the person rendering services remains accountable to the established authority and does not hold himself or herself out to the public as possessing a license issued pursuant to this article; or

BCPC – Board Certified Pastoral Counselor

Basic Requirements:

- Minimum of a **Bachelor's degree** from a regionally accredited college or university, **ordination**, religious licensure, and/or certification from a recognized entity – pastoral counselors with state sanction, national certification, denominational recognition, and/or religious licensure.
- **Identify and practice** as a Christian counselor – pastors, chaplains, associate/assistant pastors, youth ministers, pastoral counselors, etc., who are engaged in significant counseling ministry in church, para-church settings, Bible colleges and seminaries, and pastoral counseling agencies.
- Be able to document a minimum of **one year of experience** in counseling-related activities and caregiving.
- A minimum of **60 contact hours** of education/training in counseling and/or caregiving related to the incorporation of biblical principles and counseling skills with theory, knowledge, and practice.
- Maintain at least **20 Continuing Education contact hours** every two years related to the incorporation of biblical principles and counseling skills with theory, knowledge and practice.

Additional Supportive Documentation Required:

- Copy of ordination, religious license, appropriate certification and/or credentials.
- Documentation demonstrating that education/training incorporated biblical principles and counseling skills with theory, knowledge, and practice.

