

Welcome

Clinician and Legislative Advocate: How to use state, federal and regulatory government relations to improve service access for clients and expand your practice.

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IARP Legislative Committee

IARP LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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- Goal is to provide a national platform, resource and voice for IARP members on legislative and government affairs issues.
- Counseling and Health care services and professions grow and prosper through legal and political advancements.
- Clinicians advocate for themselves and their clients to federal, state and regulatory agencies to improve services, qualifications, payment, and employment of practitioners and consumers.



IARP Legislative Committee

Goals/Topics of the Legislative Committee include:

- Ethical considerations with licensure
- Credentialing and Rehabilitation
- 3rd party reimbursement and state licensure for rehabilitation professionals
- Social Security Disability Program Issues
- ACA, Medicare and Medicaid Changes and the impact on health care access
- Mental Health Access Parity
- Rehabilitation Services Administration Changes
- Transition Plans and Special Education Law
- Circuit and Federal Case Law related to Life Care Planners
- Funding for Employment Services for the disabled



Government Relations

Areas of Influences

- State Government
- State Licensing Boards
- National Board Certification
- Professional Organizations
- Regulatory Bodies
- Lobbying
- Grass Roots



DOES CERTIFICATION, LICENSURE, REGISTRATION ENSURE QUALITY OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES?

- Government's responsibility in ensuring the Public's Safety
- Adopting and enforcing educational requirements, supervision, practice standards, ethics through the requirement of credentialing assures appropriate and effective service delivery for the public
- Credentialing protects consumers from services from professional misconduct, such as misappropriation of funds, misrepresentation of credentials, conflicts of interest, and discrimination and demonstrates a baseline educational and experience proficiency that is competency-based .
- Increases the likelihood that public funds spent in service delivery will be used for serves that is research- and evidence-based and that offer reasonable hope of affecting the populations being served in a positive way.



DOES CERTIFICATION, LICENSURE, REGISTRATION ENSURE QUALITY OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES?

- Credentialing aligns practice with the rapid advancements in the field, keeping pace with newly available data by typically requiring CEUs.
- Through the continuing education required for renewal of certification, practitioners are able to maintain their knowledge, skills and abilities while staying abreast of new and emerging trends in the field.
- Meeting standards for certification insures that practitioners meet competency benchmarks.
- Provides Practitioner Benefits by achieving and maintaining a practice credential which advocates for quality service delivery to clients.



Accreditation, Licensing & Certification

Accreditation

- Accreditation is both a process and a credential
- The accreditation process is voluntary
- Only organizations, agencies, or programs can be *accredited*
- If an organization is accredited this means they conducted a thorough self-assessment and compared themselves to recognized standards of best practice.
- The process is voluntary; however regulating bodies often require accreditation in order to be licensed or certified. The accreditation process typically repeats every 2-4 years, depending on the accrediting body. Normally, individuals or private practices are not able to become accredited; however, some exceptions may exist.



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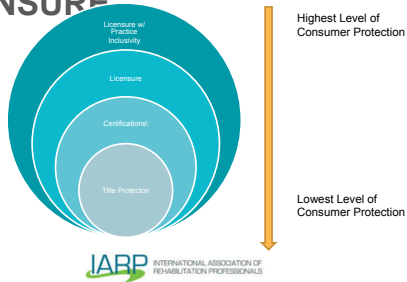
LICENSURE

- A license is a state's grant of legal authority to practice a profession within a designated scope of practice.
- It is required in order to practice or to call oneself a licensed professional.
- States' professional licensing laws help consumers identify who is a qualified practitioner to provide a particular set of specified services, known as the profession's **scope of practice**.
- Some individuals are not qualified for licensure because they lack the objective accredited education, experience and examination demonstrating their competency to provide services within the regulated profession's scope of practice.
- In addition to helping the public identify and access qualified practitioners, licensure often provides health insurance companies and state and federal governments with the assurance that these practitioners meet standards of professional competence in order to be reimbursed for providing services.



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LICENSURE



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LICENSURE

- **Licensure with practice inclusivity with title protection provision** prevents unlicensed individuals from **holding themselves out** to the public with a title and limits the ability of unlicensed individuals to provide services within the defined scope of practice for the regulated profession.
- **State Certification:** A state agency certifies that individuals with specified credentials are qualified to practice a particular profession and also ensures that those certified individuals are held to established standards of practice. Certification statutes include title protection provisions, but *not* practice exclusivity provisions —uncertified individuals can still practice the regulated profession.
- **Title Protection:** As with certification, this least protective form of state regulation permits anyone to practice the profession, but only individuals with specified qualifications or credentials may hold themselves out or use other titles as specified in the title protection statute. However, there are no established standards of practice or ethics established or regulated by the state.



CERTIFICATION

- Certification demonstrates the capability to provide a specialized service or particular program
- A certification is typically a voluntary process, although certification can be mandatory or required to practice in certain states
- Certification is often provided by a private organization for the purpose of providing the public protection on those individuals who have successfully met all requirements for the credential and demonstrated their ability to perform their profession competently.
- It represents the achievement of a level of professional competency agreed by a community as qualified to practice effectively.
- In some states, holding a certification can help a professional obtain a license.
- Licensing and certification processes often co-exist in a single jurisdiction and complement one another. A state can recognize an existing credentialing organization that provides a stringent, legally defensible, reliable and valid credentialing process. The state licensing entity contracts with the credentialing board to administer the credential and the examination.