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## Licensing Requirements for Addiction Treatment Centers

Many treatment facilities claim to be staffed by qualified licensed professionals, but upon closer examination they don't have the necessary certifications to back up those claims. An attorney will make sure you don't run into any problems when it comes to getting the proper licensing and credentials for all your staff.

If you need help with licensing requirements for your treatment center, [TreatmentAttorneys.com](http://TreatmentAttorneys.com) is here to help you. Licensing regulations vary from state to state and a representative of our legal team will make sure all members of your staff have complied with all applicable state and federal laws.

### Accreditation vs Licensing

We discussed accreditation requirements in a previous newsletter. Accreditation is a voluntary process for evaluating treatment centers

and rehab facilities. Licensing is a non-voluntary process for regulating professionals, such as your staff of counselors and therapists.

Licensing standards vary, so you will need to check the official state regulations and statutes on substance use disorder programs for each state you plan on running a treatment center. To make sure your staff meet all necessary state and local licensing requirements, it makes sense to enlist the help of a lawyer.

### **Getting Help**

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) has compiled a list of State Regulations on Substance Use Disorder Programs and Counselors. This list contains licensing requirements, broken down by state, for counseling professionals working in the substance abuse industry.

Many of your licensing questions can be answered by visiting the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) website. SAMHSA is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation.

### **Common Licenses in the Addiction Treatment Field**

In order to get a license from any agency, the candidate must complete all educational requirements, complete a minimum number of hours of supervised work experience, present letters of reference, and pass both the oral and written exam administered by the licensing board.

There are many different types of licensing that your staff will need before they start working for a drug and alcohol treatment facility. One of the more common certifications is the Substance Use Disorder Counselor (SUDC) license, or Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSUDC) license for anyone still in training. Besides the CSUDC and SUDC licenses, advanced certification is available with the obtainment of a CASUDC license.

**LADC** - Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor typically requires an

advanced degree. No interstate recognition.

**CADC** - Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor eligibility requirements differ, but generally applicants can apply if they have a HS diploma/GED and some college coursework. CADC is a national certification and international accreditation achievement.

**LPC** - Licensed Professional Counselor means you are certified to offer substance abuse and mental health care to people. This certification requires either a master's or doctoral degree in counseling.

**NCAC** - National Certified Addictions Counselor is administered through **NCCAP** (National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals).

**CCDP** - Certified Co-Occurring Disorders Counselor license is for counselors providing services to people with dual diagnosis mental health and substance use disorders.

**CATC** - Certified Addictions Treatment Counselor.

Hiring unlicensed counselors can put your business at risk if they see patients in any capacity, such as treating them or offering advice. Don't run the risk of litigation, let a qualified attorney help your drug and alcohol rehab with all the necessary licensing requirements.

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### **Licensing Help for Your Addiction Treatment Center**

With a lawyer by your side when you're opening up a drug and alcohol rehab, you can be assured that he or she will make sure that you and your staff has the proper licensing.

There are rules and guidelines to owning and operating a drug and alcohol rehab so it's important to have a lawyer by your side who can help guide you through the process. Hiring an attorney is a smart move to make sure your staff has obtained all the necessary licensing credentials needed to work at your facility.

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