

COUNSELING COMPACT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

South Dakota joined the national [Counseling Compact](#) on July 1, 2024. The multi-state Compact creates a shared interstate licensure data system that allows for verification of licensure status between the member states of the Compact. Through the data system, a privilege to practice can be obtained by a licensee that allows for practice in multiple states based on their home state license status.

The Compact applies to licensed professional counselors and licensed professional counselors-mental health. The Compact does not apply to licensed marriage and family therapists. **South Dakota's membership in the Compact does not automatically allow a current licensee to practice in another Compact state.**

As a member of the Compact, the South Dakota Board of Examiners for Counselors and Marriage & Family Therapists (Board) is implementing the necessary minimum requirements for someone licensed in South Dakota to be eligible for a privilege to practice through the Compact to allow practice in another Compact state. These minimum requirements include verification that the licensee has at least a 60-hour master's degree in counseling and the licensee has undergone an FBI criminal background check.

South Dakota law grandfathered any professional counselor or professional counselor-mental health licensed by the board, or anyone under a board approved supervision for one of these licenses as of July 1, 2024 into the 60-hour master's degree in counseling requirement. Anyone who is licensed or under a plan of supervision as of July 1, 2024 is considered to meet the educational requirement to be eligible to apply for a privilege to practice in another state through the Compact. Anyone who applies for a board approved plan of supervision after July 1, 2024 will need to have a 60-hour master's degree in counseling to be eligible to apply for a privilege through the Compact. An applicant with a master's degree of less than 60 hours may be eligible for licensure in South Dakota, but is not eligible to participate in the Compact.

The Compact does not allow a state to grandfather an applicant for a privilege to practice through the Compact without an FBI background check requirement. Any licensee wishing to apply for a privilege to practice in another state through the Compact must undergo an FBI background check. The Board does not require an FBI background check for licensure in South Dakota. As a result, any South Dakota licensee wishing to be eligible for a privilege to practice through the Compact must provide the Board with an acceptable FBI background check.

Applicants who have held a license to practice in another state for at least 3 years, have completed the required national examination and are in good standing with their current licensing board remain eligible to be licensed in South Dakota by [endorsement](#).

South Dakota licensees who want to practice in another state must check with that state for options to practice in that state while South Dakota waits to be fully compliant with the Compact.

To follow the business and news of the Compact Commission, please visit the [Compact Commission website](#).

