

# A Word about "Grandfathering" and "Grandparenting"

Many professionals have asked about alternative to the standard application routes, specifically how more experienced counselors were able to become licensed or certified in the past. We also receive questions about practitioners who report other licensed professionals not holding a Master's Degree or Certified Substance Abuse Counselors who also hold the Certified Clinical Supervisor credential.

It's best to go through a bit of history:

**Pre-1991: Grandparenting into the CSAC.** When the NC Board joined the IC&RC, the board was given 90 days to grandparent in professionals without having to take the oral exam. At that time, most boards only administered a written test. Grandparenting for the CCS was July 1-December 31, 1992. Note: At this time the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Certification Board was not based in NC General Statute.

**1993-1994: The NCSAPCB becomes the statutorily-based independent credentialing Board for addictions counseling in North Carolina.** No grandparenting took place at this time.

**October 1, 1997: Senate bill 712 passes; it created an advanced credential with a Master's Degree requirement; the CCAS.**

It allowed two things: 1) Grandparenting for the Certified Clinical Addictions Specialist for those with qualifying Master's Degrees and 2) a Challenging the Exam option for those without qualifying Master's Degrees. Those persons had to meet all of the following criteria: have 10 years of experience, hold an active CSAC, and achieve a passing score on the advanced Written Examination. Very few people met all three criteria qualifications.

**1999: The Certified Supervisor Intern was established.** No grandparenting took place at this time.

**2005: The Practice Act passes.** The NCSAPCB became the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board. There was a 90-day period of grandparenting for the CCJP credential. In addition, all the CCAS's became LCAS's due to the passage of the Practice Act.

Any professional holding an LCAS at the time of this writing would had to have successfully "Challenged the Exam" between October 1, 1997 and September 30, 1998 in order to receive the CCAS. In 2005, their CCAS would have become an LCAS.

More dates of interest:

**2008: IC&RC moves to a Comprehensive Examination; thereby eliminating the Oral Exam.** The NC General Assembly moves swiftly to eliminate the requirement to pass the oral exam. The last oral exam is given in March 2008. The first comprehensive exam is given three months later in June.

**2010: Following the requests from the addiction professionals, the NCSAPPB and the NC General Assembly change the LCAS- Provisional to LCAS- Associate to meet the demands of third-party payers.**

**2011: NCSAPPB moves to year-round testing.**

**November 2013: NCSAPPB launches LearningBuilder, an online application portal, where applicants can renew their license, check the status of their application, and pay by credit/debit card.**