

1 AN ACT relating to pastoral counselors.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 335.605 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in KRS 335.600 to 335.699, unless the context requires otherwise:

5 (1) "Board" means the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Pastoral Counselors;

6 (2) "Kentucky licensed pastoral counselor" or "license holder" means an ordained  
7 minister or the denominational equivalent who:

8 (a) Has completed a master of divinity degree and an advanced degree program in  
9 pastoral counseling, or an equivalent course of study approved by the board,  
10 from an accredited seminary or other accredited educational institution;

11 (b) Is licensed by the board; and

12 (c) Engages in the practice of pastoral counseling;

13 (3) "Pastoral counseling" means *integration of spiritual or theological dimensions*  
14 *with the application of mental health counseling and developmental principles,*  
15 *methods, and procedures including:*

16 *(a) Assessment;*

17 *(b) Evaluation;*

18 *(c) Treatment planning;*

19 *(d) Amelioration; and*

20 *(e) Remediation of adjustment problems and emotional disorders;*

21 *to assist individuals or groups to achieve more effective personal, spiritual, social,*  
22 *educational, or career development and adjustment*~~[ the practice of pastoral~~  
23 ~~counseling at an advanced level, equivalent to the standards of practice set by the~~  
24 ~~American Association of Pastoral Counselors for the "fellow" level, that involves~~  
25 ~~integrating spiritual resources with insights from the behavioral sciences]; and~~

26 (4) "Ordained minister or the denominational equivalent" means a person who has been  
27 called, elected, or otherwise authorized by a church, synagogue, denomination, or

1 faith group through ordination, consecration, or equivalent means, to exercise  
2 within and on the behalf of the denomination or faith group specific religious  
3 leadership and service that furthers its purpose and mission.

4 ➔Section 2. KRS 335.620 is amended to read as follows:

5 (1) An applicant for licensure as a pastoral counselor shall:

6 (a) Pay the board an initial fee for licensure that shall be established by  
7 administrative regulation promulgated in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A;

8 (b) Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;

9 (c) Reside or be employed in the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

10 (d) Have completed a master of divinity degree or *a master's or doctoral degree*  
11 ~~*in*~~ ~~its equivalent with a minimum of ninety (90) hours from a seminary~~  
12 ~~accredited by the Association of Theological Schools or~~ an equivalent course  
13 of study as defined by the board by promulgation of administrative  
14 regulations;

15 (e) Have completed each of the following:

16 1. At least one thousand three hundred seventy-five (1,375) *client* hours in  
17 the practice of supervised pastoral counseling acceptable to the board,  
18 subsequent to being granted a *master of divinity degree, or a* master's *or*  
19 *doctoral* degree *in an equivalent course of study*; and

20 2. A minimum of two hundred fifty (250) hours of clinical supervision  
21 acceptable to the board;

22 (f) Be an ordained minister or the denominational equivalent, as determined by  
23 the applicant's denomination or faith group, and have been endorsed by that  
24 denomination or faith group to function as a pastoral counselor; *and*

25 (g) ~~Hold an advanced degree or its equivalent beyond the master of divinity~~  
26 ~~degree with special concentration in the theory and practice of pastoral~~  
27 ~~counseling and which requires at least one (1) year of academic work beyond~~

1           ~~the first professional degree; and~~

2           ~~(h)~~—]Pass a written examination approved by the board.

- 3       (2) If an applicant has been issued a certificate in pastoral counseling by the board prior  
4       to January 1, 2015, and maintains that certificate in good standing, the board shall  
5       issue the applicant a license as a pastoral counselor upon the applicant's payment of  
6       a renewal fee and completion of a renewal process as authorized by KRS 335.625  
7       and as prescribed by the board through the promulgation of administrative  
8       regulations.

9       ➔Section 3. KRS 335.630 is amended to read as follows:

- 10      (1) The provisions of KRS 335.600 to 335.699 shall not apply to persons licensed,  
11      certified, or registered under any other provision of the Kentucky Revised Statutes,  
12      including, but not limited to, physicians, social workers, psychologists, nurses,  
13      marriage and family therapists, art therapists, or students within accredited training  
14      programs of these professions. Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section,  
15      nothing in KRS 335.600 to 335.699 shall be construed to limit, interfere with, or  
16      restrict the practice, descriptions of services, or manner in which these persons hold  
17      themselves out to the public.

- 18      (2) No person shall **engage in pastoral counseling as defined in Section 1 of this Act**  
19      **or** use the title "Kentucky licensed pastoral counselor" or "KLPC," or any title or  
20      abbreviation that is substantially the same, or hold himself or herself out as having  
21      this status or as a Kentucky licensed pastoral counselor, unless licensed by the  
22      board.

- 23      (3) Nothing in KRS 335.600 to 335.699 shall be construed to alter, amend, or interfere  
24      with the practice of employment counseling, job placement counseling, or school  
25      counseling.

- 26      (4) Nothing in KRS 335.600 to 335.699 shall be construed as regulating or limiting the  
27      ministry or services of a minister, including pastoral care and counseling, otherwise

1 authorized by a church, denomination, or faith group to perform the ordinary duties  
2 or functions of the clergy.

3 (5) Nothing in KRS 335.600 to 335.699 shall be construed to apply to the activities and  
4 services of a student or trainee in pastoral counseling who is pursuing a program of  
5 studies in pastoral counseling at an accredited institution of higher learning if the  
6 activities are performed under supervision and constitute a part of the supervised  
7 program of study, and if the person is designated a pastoral counseling intern or  
8 student in training.

9 (6) The provisions of KRS 335.600 to 335.699 shall not apply to Christian Science  
10 practitioners.