

Original: 2178

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

2001 APR 16 AM 8:52

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

DATE: April 12, 2001
TO: Independent Regulatory Review Commission
FROM: Jerry A. Stern
State Representative, 80th District
SUBJECT: Proposed Licensure Regulations
RE: Mark J. Chuff, Constituent
606 Pennedale Lane
Duncansville, PA 16635
Work: (814) 696-9904
Home: (814) 696-6961

On behalf of a concerned constituent, Mr. Mark J. Chuff, I am requesting an *Extraordinary Exclusion Clause* be included in the proposed licensure regulations for counselors.

The Eligibility for Grandparenting Section 9 – Exemption Subsection C, requires that the applicants for licensure have a Masters degree of at least 36 hours. When Mr. Chuff finished his Masters degree in the early 1980's, only a 30-hour program was required; therefore, Mr. Chuff would now be excluded from this licensure. When researching this issue, Mark was told he would need to complete another Masters program to qualify. He could not simply get another six credits.

Mr. Chuff, recognized by the National Board of Certified Counselors, has met all other stipulations under the Grandparenting requirements, and has been working as a Board Certified Counselor for twelve years. Mark has maintained continuing education credits and has approximately another 20 graduated credits in a related field. He is currently a supervisor in a Behavioral Health unit at a local hospital, and he has a private practice as a Certified Counselor. Without this licensure, he will be barred from third party insurance reimbursements, and his career will be jeopardized.

I am requesting that the board considers an exclusion regarding the 36-semester hours for those in extraordinary situations like Mr. Chuff. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact my office or Mr. Mark Chuff with any questions you may have.

JAS/alp

Cc: Ms. Eva Cheney, State Board of Social Workers, Marriage
& Family Therapists & Professional Counselors
Pennsylvania Community Providers Association
House Professional Licensure Committee Members
Mr. Mark J. Chuff