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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

January 10, 2002

Thomas F. Matta, Ph.D., Chairman
State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and
Family Therapists and Professional Counselors
116 Pine Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Regulation #16A-694 (IRRC #2178)
State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and
Family Therapists and Professional Counselors
Licensure

Dear Chairman Matta:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved your regulation on
January 10, 2002. Our Order is enclosed and is available on our website at www.irrc.state.pa.us.

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that meets the criteria and
intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,

Alvin C. Bush
Vice Chairman
evp
Enclosure

cc: Honorable Mario J. Civera, Jr., Majority Chairman, House Professional Licensure Committee
Honorable William W. Rieger, Democratic Chairman, House Professional Licensure Committee
Honorable Clarence D. Bell, Chairman, Senate Consumer Protection and Professional
Licensure Committee
Honorable Lisa M. Boscola, Minority Chairman, Senate Consumer Protection and Professional
Licensure Committee
Honorable Kim Pizzigrilli, Secretary, Department of State

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
APPROVAL ORDER**

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held January 10, 2002

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman, by Phone
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman
Arthur Coccodrilli
Robert J. Harbison, III
John F. Mizner, by Phone

Regulation No.16A-694
State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and
Family Therapists and Professional Counselors
Licensure

On March 13, 2001, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors (Board). This rulemaking amends 49 Pa. Code Chapter 47 and adds Chapters 48 and 49. The proposed regulation was published in the March 24, 2001 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on November 27, 2001. The Board withdrew the regulation on December 14, 2001. The final-form regulation was resubmitted on December 18, 2001.

Act 136 of 1998 (Act 136) established licensure standards for three previously unlicensed professions: clinical social workers, professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists. This regulation implements the licensure requirements of Act 136. The regulation sets forth procedures and education, examination and experience requirements for licensure in these three professions.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Board (63 P.S. §§ 1906(1) and (2)) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

This regulation is approved.




Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman