



The Counseling Compact: The First Steps

Greg Searls
Executive Director
Counseling Compact Commission



Greg Searls

Greg Searls is Executive Director of the Counseling Compact Commission.

Director Searls is a licensed funeral service practitioner in the state of Wyoming who began his work in the regulatory world when he was appointed to the Board of Funeral Service Practitioners in 2010. He has served as the state's Executive Director for several licensing boards, including the Mental Health Professions Licensing Board.

Director Searls served as the ex-officio representative to the Counseling Compact Commission for AASCB until Wyoming joined the compact and was then named Commissioner for his home state. He has a bachelor's degree in mortuary science and a certificate of gerontology from Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, and an associate degree in specialized funeral service technology from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. He is coauthor of the article "*Counseling and the Interstate Compact: Navigating Ethical Practice Across State Lines*," published in *The Professional Counselor* in the fall of 2023.



Learning Objectives



**Participants
will be
able to:**

- **Describe the requirements** to participate in the compact and how to apply for privileges.
- **Identify which states** are members of the Counseling Compact.
- **Explain ethical considerations** for practicing across state lines under the privilege to practice.

Presentation Overview

Part I: Counseling Compact Commission

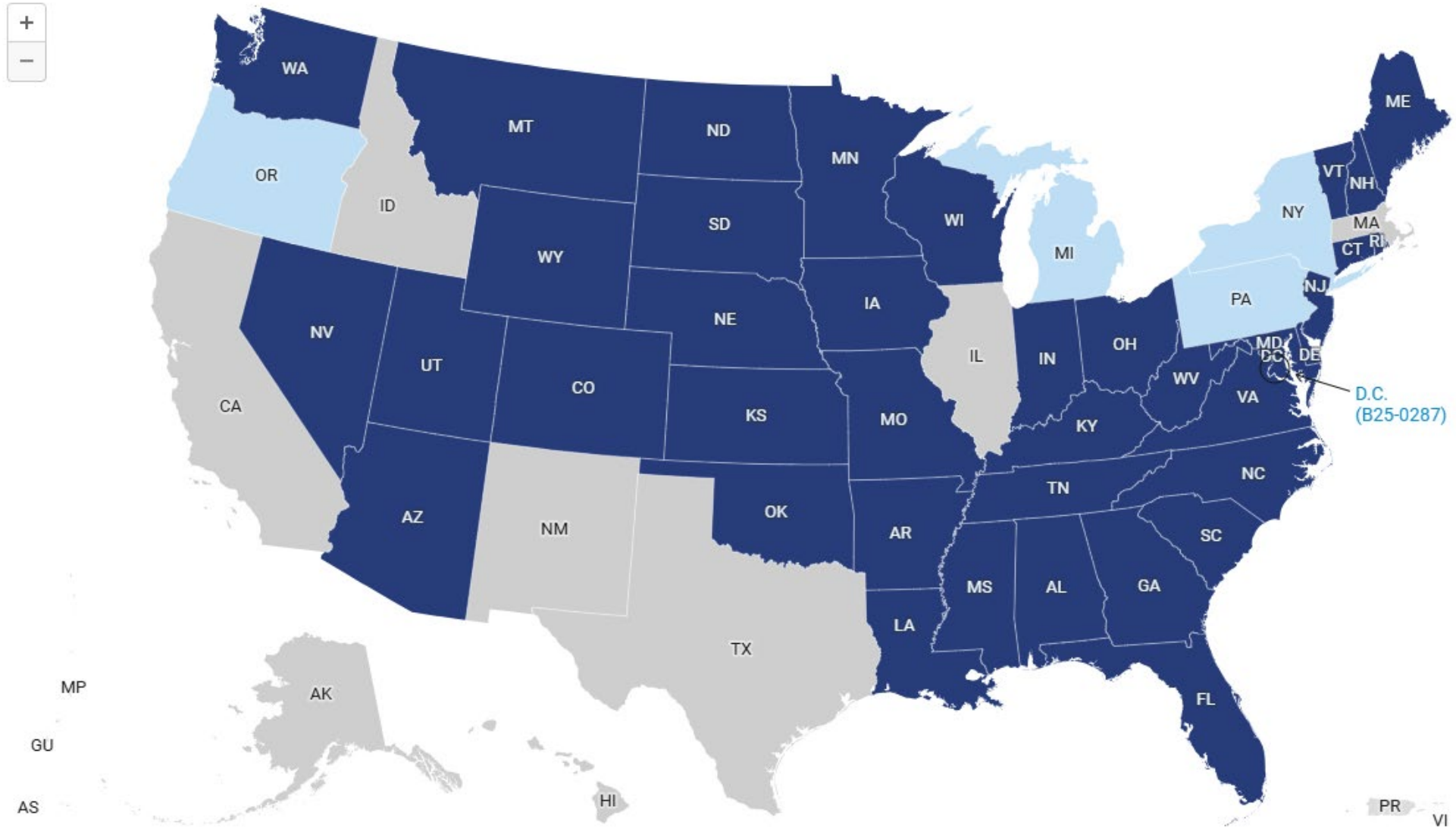


Part II: Privileges 101

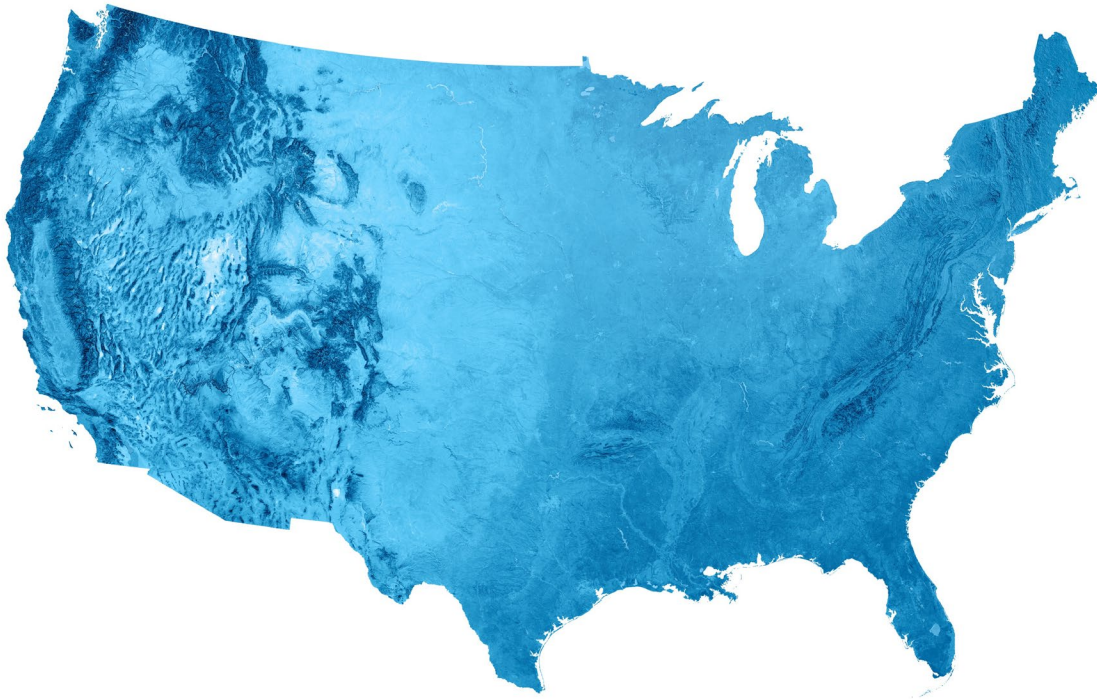


Part III: Questions and Answers

Counseling Compact Commission



What is the Counseling Compact?



Addresses heightened demand for counseling services

Facilitates interstate practice via a “**privilege**” through mutual recognition model

Builds on current reciprocity systems

Rulemaking authority granted in legislation and limited by the same legislation

Powers of the Commission

Establish bylaws

Impose fees to cover costs of the operations and activities of the Commission and staff

Maintain its fiscal records

Meet and take actions consistent with the provisions of the Compact

Promulgate rules within the authority of the Compact

Establish a budget

Establish and elect an Executive Committee

Others as defined in Section 9C of the Compact Language

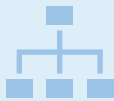
Delegates



One Delegate per member jurisdiction.



Each member **state licensing board or agency** elects its Delegate to serve on behalf of the state.



States may also name a **Temporary Representative** to serve in the absence of the Delegate.



Committees



Executive Committee

– 7 Delegates who are elected from the pool of Delegates. 4 Ex-Officio Members who represent major organizations within the counseling profession.



The Executive Committee **appoints Delegates** to serve on the Finance, Rules, Compliance, and Election Committees. Temporary Representatives may also serve on Committees.



All Commission and Committee meetings are open to the public. Meeting information is available at counselingcompact.gov.

Commission Meetings

- **Full Commission** – Met Feb. 12, 2025, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; *required to meet annually*.
- **Executive Committee** – Meets the **first Wednesday** of every month at 1 pm ET for 90 minutes.
- **Finance Committee** – Meets the **second Wednesday** of every month at 1 pm ET for 1 hour.
- **Rules Committee** – Meets the **fourth Thursday** of every month at noon ET for 90 minutes.
- **Compliance Committee** – Meets the **first Monday** of each month (unless it is a holiday) at noon for 1 hour.

**All meetings are open to the public.*

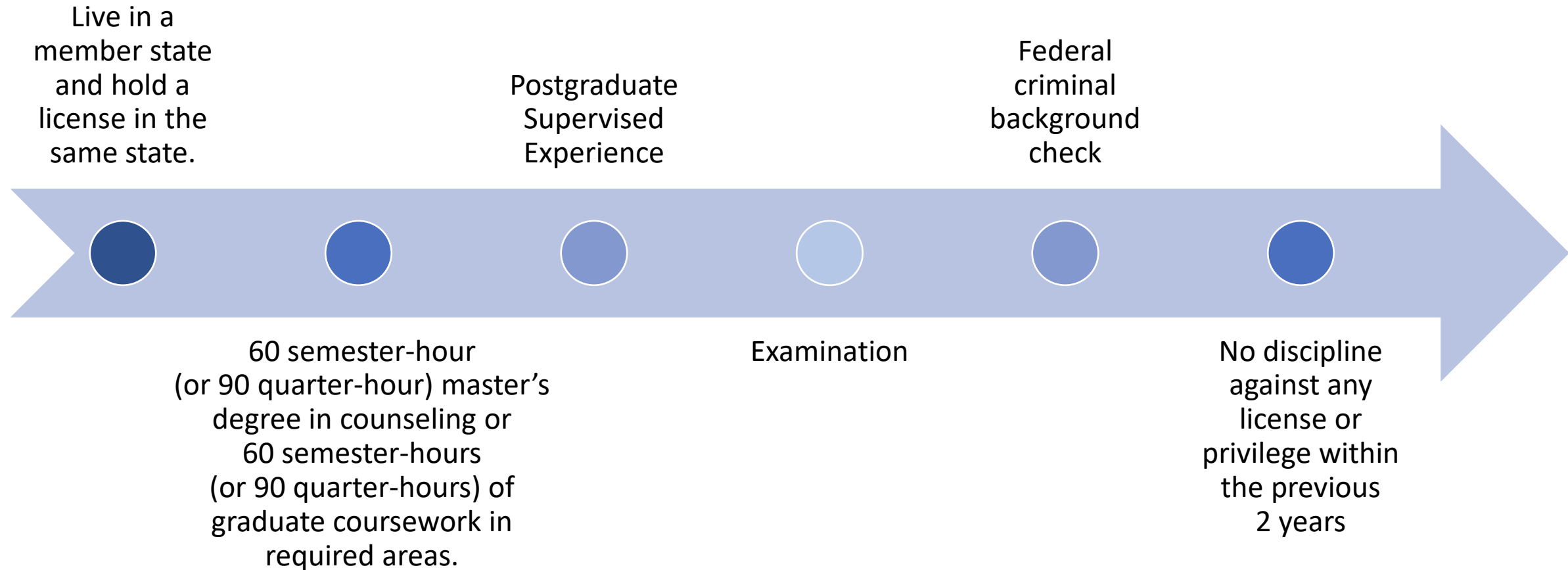
Why the Counseling Compact?

- ✓ **Increases** access to counseling services
- ✓ **Expands** market opportunities
- ✓ **Supports** military families
- ✓ **Facilitates** telehealth but also allows in-person care
- ✓ **Counselor credentials are transportable** between member states
- ✓ **Promotes** cooperation among Compact member states
- ✓ **Provides** consumer protections across state lines

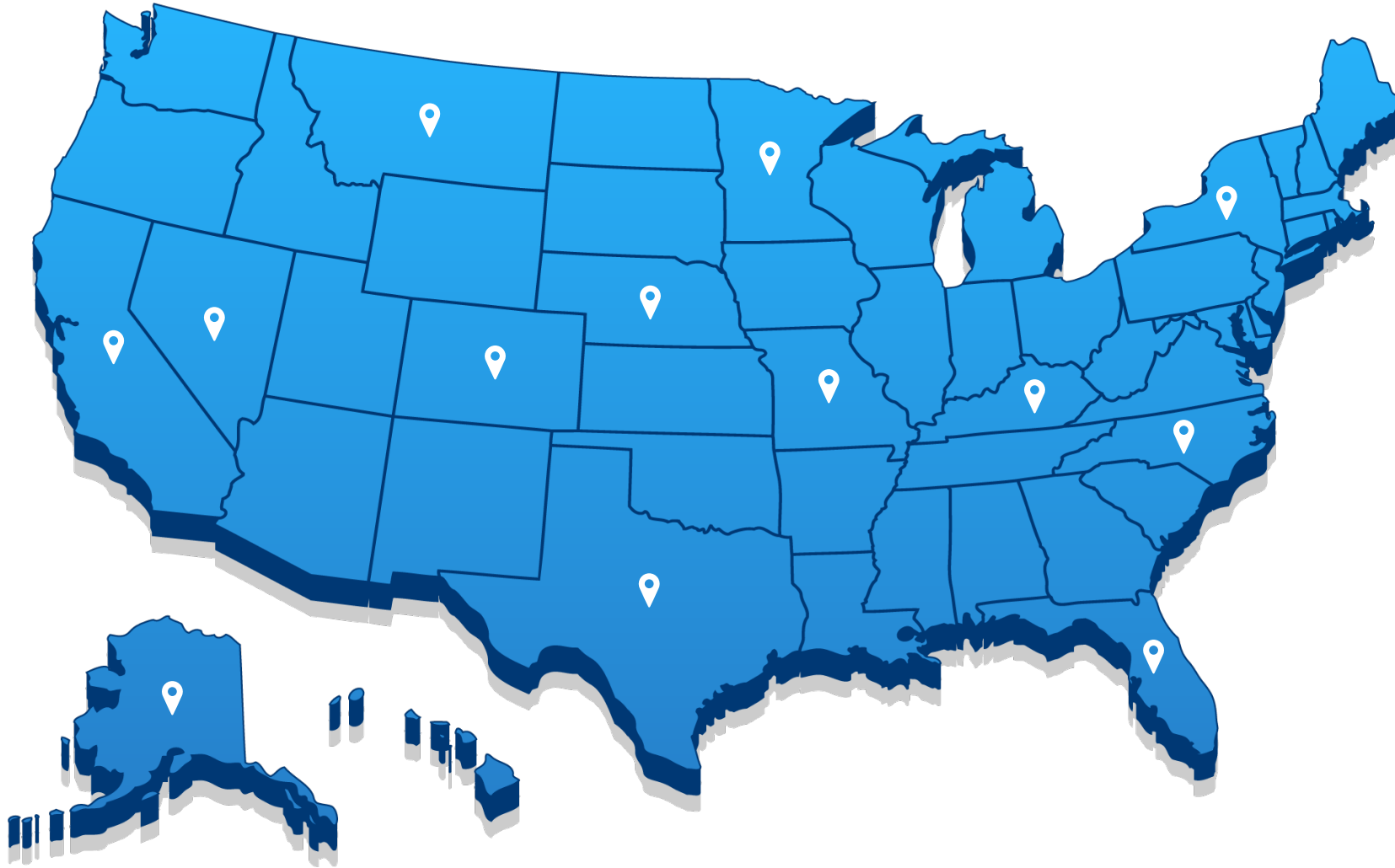
Privileges 101



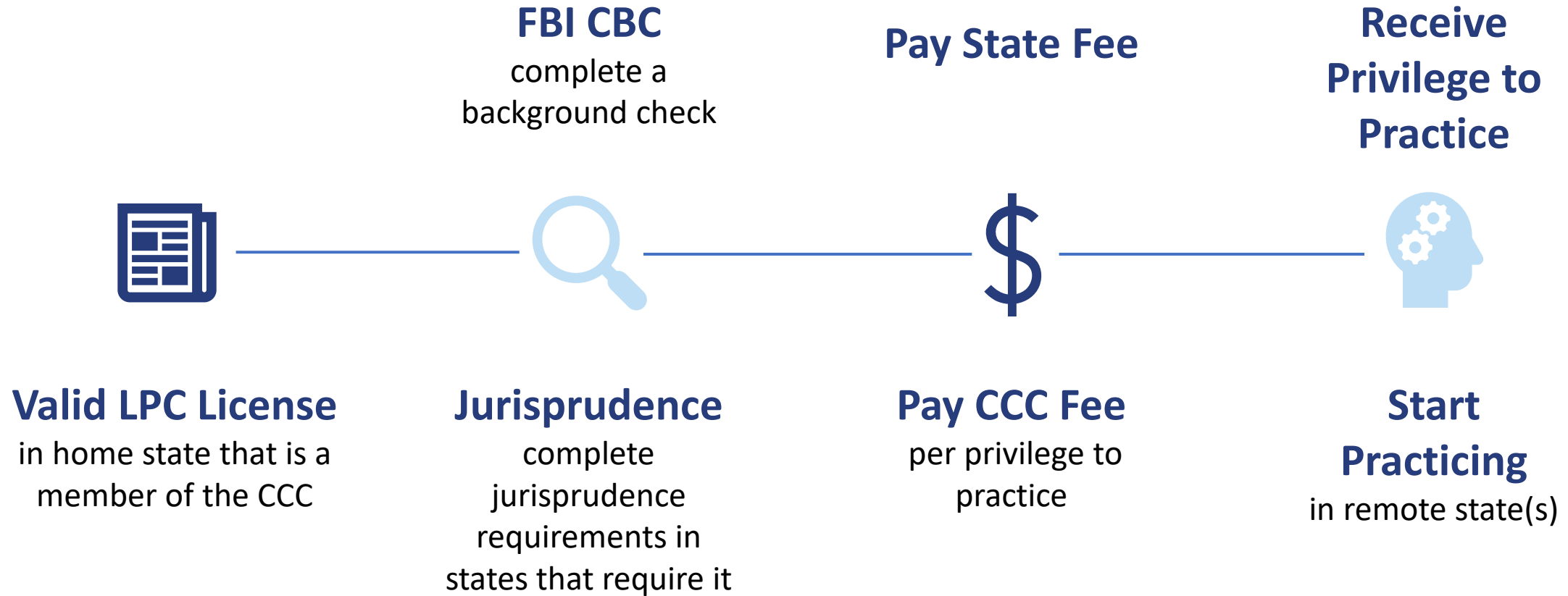
Eligibility for Privileges



Where do I need a privilege? _____



How will you obtain a privilege?



Compact Connect Demonstration

Privilege Expiration and Additional Privileges

Privileges will expire the same date as your home state license

Privileges need to be obtained after you renew home state license

CE information



Home State Change and Military Provisions

Compact State to Non-Compact State

Compact State to Compact State

Military PCS



Disciplinary Action

Home State

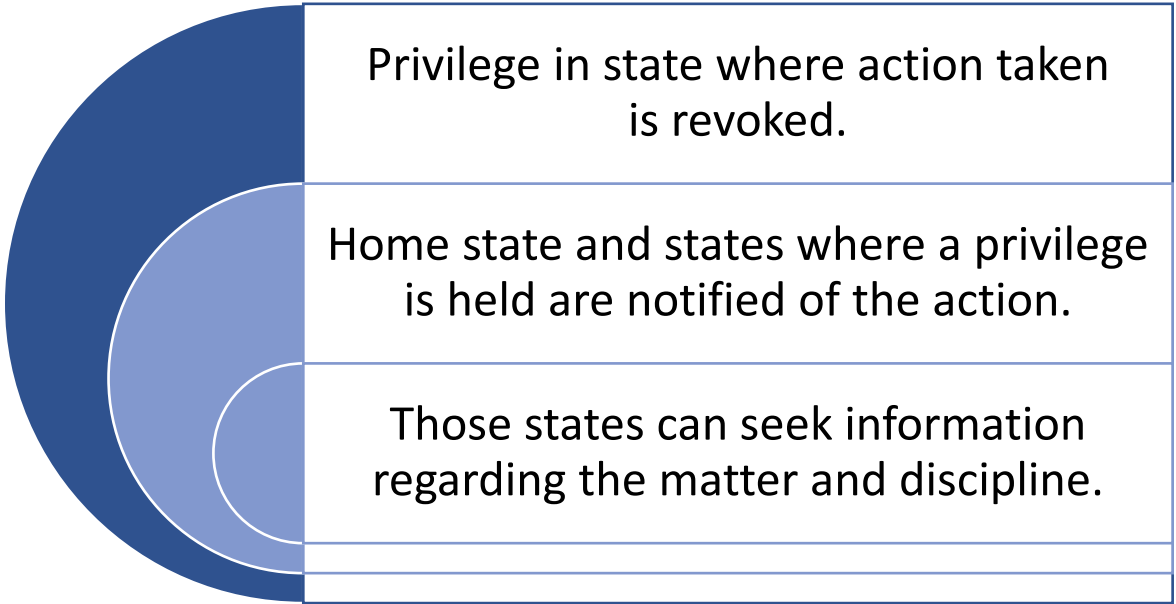


Privileges are automatically revoked.



States are notified of action against the license.

Privilege State



You have a privilege, now what?



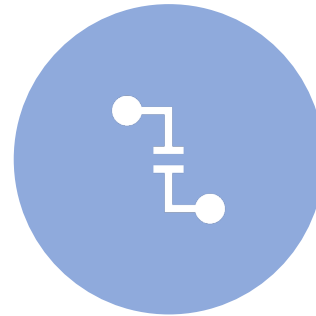
Practice under the laws, regulations, and scope of practice as legally allowed where the client is at the time of services.



Privileges expire based upon the expiration date of your home state license.



No state-specific CEU requirements to maintain a privilege. Maintain your home state license.



Seek the continued privilege after your home state license has been renewed and information is uploaded to the Compact database.

Contact Information

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<https://counselingcompact.gov>

<https://compactconnect.org>

Frequently Asked Questions

My license was issued before the current exam/hours requirements were in place. Can I participate?



I have a license in the state where I work, not the state where I live. Can I use that license?



My home state isn't a Compact member, but I have a license in a state that is a member. Can I use that license?



Q&A