

## CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, the following is a concise explanatory statement:

**AGENCY:** Rhode Island Department of Health

**DIVISION:** N/A

**RULE IDENTIFIER:** 216-RICR-40-05-11

**RULE TITLE:** *Licensing Clinical Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists*

**REASON FOR RULEMAKING:** These regulations are being amended to add sections covering the requirements for licensure as an Associate Clinical Mental Health Counselor and/or an Associate Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. These changes are in response to amendments to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 5-63.2 which created associate level licenses.

**ANY FINDINGS REQUIRED BY LAW AS A PREEQUISITE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RULE:** N/A

### TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS:

- A comment was received asking if all currently licensed mental health counselors can renew their licenses, even if they completed their requirements with accredited graduate programs that had not completed their CACREP certification at that time. The renewal process for licensure for Clinical Mental Health Counselors has not changed. All previously accepted requirements will continue to be accepted. For inquiries about specific license applications, please contact Donna Valletta [[donna.valletta@health.ri.gov](mailto:donna.valletta@health.ri.gov), 401-222-6572]. The Department accepts and thanks you for this comment.
- A comment was received expressing support for the proposed amendments. The Department accepts and thanks you for this comment.
- Numerous comments were received stating “555” it is unclear to the Department what this means and furthermore no contact information was left. This comment will not be accepted at this time.

**CHANGES TO THE TEXT OF THE RULE:** There are no changes to the text of the rule.

**REGULATORY ANALYSIS:**

In development of this rule, consideration was given to:

- 1) Alternative approaches;
- 2) Overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and
- 3) Significant economic impact on small business

No alternative approach, duplication or overlap was identified based on available information. RIDOH has determined that the benefits of the rule justify its costs.