

The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (VDH/ADAP)
 January 2014

ADAP maintains all aspects of licensure for LADCs in the State of Vermont except for grievances which go through the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR). Currently there are 368 active LADCs, of which 39 are grandfathered (approved 1/31/01).

LADC Licensing Requirements

- Hold a masters level post graduate degree, or higher, in a discipline that meets the criteria of substance abuse treatment;
- Pass the ICRC exam administered by the Vermont Certification Board and become certified in the State of Vermont [see www.vtcertificationboard.org];
- Document and have signed off by a (credentialed) supervisor a total of 3,000 hours of direct services in the substance abuse profession (grandfathered LADCs required 6,000 direct service hours);
- Verify the completion of an ethics course pertaining to substance abuse treatment and CFR 42 and HIPAA;
- Submit an application and supporting documentation to the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (ADAP) whereupon the application is reviewed by a Substance Abuse Programs Treatment Coordinator. If accepted and recommended for approval the application is forwarded to the Division’s Deputy Director, where a license is approved and issued.

Consumer protections

- All licenses are up for review and renewal in odd years, whereupon the individual must demonstrate a minimum of 40 hours of continuous education in the substance abuse profession to include ethics training.
- Complaints and concerns regarding unprofessional conduct are reported directly to ADAP. Those found to have merit are documented and submitted to the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) for investigation. All other complaints and concerns regarding unprofessional conduct are referred to the OPR, and consumers are encouraged to formalize their complaint with the OPR.
- The provision of training and work with substance abuse treatment providers to adopt and maintain best practices in the field of addictions treatment.

Unprofessional Conduct

In the past two years (FY2012 and 2013), eight cases were received by OPR for investigation concerning LADCs. One case was found not to warrant an investigation. Of the remaining seven cases, two were closed without discipline and five cases had no charges filed, no summary suspensions, no discipline imposed by stipulation, or no discipline imposed after the hearing. See <http://vtprofessionals.org/about/reports.asp>.

Table 1: OPR Unprofessional Conduct Claims Against Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors

FY	New Cases Received	Cases Investigated	Closed without Discipline	Charges Filed	Summary Suspension	Discipline Imposed by Stipulation	Discipline Imposed after Hearing
FY2012	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
FY2013	4	5	2	0	0	0	0