

STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**APPLICATION FOR FULL CERTIFICATION AS A
MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL PERSON**

PRIVILEGES AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL CERTIFICATION

A. Privileges

A professional person with full mental health certification is qualified to:

- a) approve applications for voluntary admissions to mental health facilities;
- b) participate as a mental health professional person in involuntary commitments and recommitments to mental health facilities;
- c) concur in the emergency detention of a person believed to be seriously mentally ill;
- d) supervise treatment plans of inpatients;
- e) authorize restrictions of patients' rights when such restrictions are necessary to achieve treatment goals;
- f) authorize restraint or seclusion;
- g) supervise non-professional staff;
- h) order the discharge of a patient during, or at the end of, the initial commitment period;
- i) request a court-ordered release to alternative treatment;
- j) request a conditional release from a mental health facility;
- k) request the readmission of a conditionally released patient;
- l) review and initial, within 24 hours, summaries of extraordinary incidents involving patients;
- m) supervise approved training programs and clinical competency evaluations for facility mental health certification.

B. Minimum Requirements

Applicants for full mental health certification must demonstrate successful performance as mental health clinicians, a thorough understanding of the statutory responsibilities of a mental health professional person and knowledge of the full range of mental health services in Montana. In addition, to obtain full mental health certification a person must:

- a) have earned a Montana mental health license from the national board of certified counselors; or the national academy of certified clinical mental health counselors; and
- b) have earned a master's degree in social work from an accredited college or university in a curriculum which included at least three courses in therapeutic techniques for treating mental illness; or
- c) have earned a master's degree in clinical or counseling psychology from an accredited college or university; or
- d) have earned a master's degree in psychiatric nursing from an accredited college or university; or
- e) have earned a master's degree in a human services field other than social work, clinical psychology, counseling psychology or psychiatric nursing from an accredited college or university in a curriculum with a *preponderance* of course work and practicum experience in a clinical mental health area; or
- f) be a registered nurse with a bachelor's degree in nursing from an accredited college or university and have five years of full-time clinical mental health experience following receipt of the bachelor's degree.