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South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Board of Examiners for Licensure of
Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family
Therapists, Addiction Counselors
and Psycho-Educational Specialists



Henry D. McMaster
Governor

Emily H. Farr
Director

Criminal Background Check for Initial Professional Counselor Licensure

Effective July 6, 2026, state and national fingerprint criminal background checks (CBC) are required for all initial licensure Professional Counselor applicants under Section 40-75-220 of the SC Professional Counselors Practice Act.

If your application is received on or after July 6, 2026, please follow these steps:

- **Apply First:** Submit your licensure application to the SC Board.
- **Wait for Instructions:** Do **not** process your fingerprints or CBC report until you receive specific instructions from the Board.
- **Follow Provided Steps:** The Board will email you the exact fingerprinting procedures after receiving your application.