

New York State CAT Licensure Fact Sheet

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The North American Association of Drama Therapy (NADTA) New York State Task Force was formed by NYC-based Drama Therapists in conjunction with the NADTA's Government Affairs Chair, Randy Mulder in early 2009 to understand how Creative Arts Therapy (CAT) licensure works and to advocate for clarity and changes in the process that would benefit Drama Therapists and other Creative Arts Therapists (CATs).

About the Fact Sheet:

The information on this Fact Sheet is based on the experiences of people who have gone through the licensure process, as well as information from the Office of Professions website. All language taken directly from the website will appear in *italics*. The **IMPORTANT WORDS OF ADVICE** found throughout this document are based on direct experience in going through the licensure process. Information from correspondence with Office of the Professions Executive Secretary David Hamilton will appear in Arial typeface.

This Fact Sheet is meant to be a guide to the licensure process. We do not claim to have definitive answers to all questions regarding licensure. This is an evolving process and things do change. We encourage you to do your own research and ask your own questions of the Office of Professions. If you receive information or have an experience that is different from what is on the Fact Sheet, or one that is not covered on the Fact Sheet, please let us know. We need your help to be as up-to-date and informed as possible. You can contact us at nystaskforce@nadt.org.

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What is Licensure?

In 2005, New York became the first state to license Creative Arts Therapists. Licensure is a consumer protection act meant to ensure that only individuals with certain education and experience qualifications are able to practice Creative Arts Therapies (CAT). Since this law was passed, therapists are not allowed to practice a CAT modality in private practice or call themselves a Creative Arts Therapist without being licensed. The licensure process is regulated by the Board of Regents and the New York State Education Department through the Office of the Professions. Because the process is governed by the Education Department, the education requirements are very strict. NYU's Drama Therapy program is a licensure-approved program. To find other licensure-approved programs, please visit:

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catedprogs.htm>

When licensure was first put into affect, there was a "grandfathering" period in which experienced CATs could apply for licensure. Thus professional, experienced Creative Arts Therapists who went through alternative training programs and who worked at non-profits and in educational settings were licensed through the grandfathering process. This period ended in 2007, and the current regulations and requirements for licensure were implemented.

What are the qualifications to become a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist (LCAT)?

According to the OOP website: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>

To be licensed as a Creative Arts Therapist in New York State you must:

- *be of good moral character, as determined by the Department;*
- *be at least 21 years of age;*
- *meet education requirements;*
- *meet experience requirements;*
- *meet examination requirements; and*
- *complete coursework or training in the identification and reporting of child abuse offered by a New York State approved provider.*

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

To satisfy the education requirement, **you must have a Master's Degree in a CAT modality from a degree granting institution that includes at least 48 credits.**

NYU's Drama Therapy program is a licensure-approved program. To find other licensure-approved programs, please visit <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catedprogs.htm>

For information about the specific course and internship requirements, go to <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>

I am an alternate training track student, or graduate of an alternate training program. Am I eligible to be a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist in the State of New York?

As of now (October, 2010), the answer is **no**. The specific requirements for licensure are contained in Title 8, Article 163, Section 8404 of the New York State Education Law and Section 52.34 and Subpart 79-11 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. (For links to these go to <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>.) All three of these sections specifically state that you must have a Master's degree in a Creative Arts Therapy modality. That appears to be non-negotiable, which would be an issue for alternate training track students who receive Master's in other fields, but not a CAT modality.

Another possible issue for alternate training track students is that they often receive training hours and credits from institutes and not in degree granting programs. There is a section in the Education Requirements which states: "The education requirement for licensure as a creative arts therapist can only be met through completion of graduate level courses at an acceptable degree granting institution. Training in an institute or by a registered individual does not meet the education requirement for licensure even if the training is accredited by a private organization." (<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>)

For more information, please visit the OOP website: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/mhp-education-faq.htm>

I received an MA in Drama Therapy from a program other than NYU. Am I eligible to be a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist in the State of New York?

Maybe. The Office of Professions does specify “Substantial Equivalence” to the education requirement. For complete information go to: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>

We have heard from an individual who received a Master’s in Drama Therapy from CIIS in California. The OOP instructed this individual to take an additional class in order to qualify for licensure. It should be noted that this class (Assessment & Appraisal with Groups & Individuals) was not part of the CIIS curriculum at the individual’s time of graduation, over 8 years ago, although it looks as though it *is* currently a part of the CIIS program. If you are a recent graduate of CIIS, you may not need to take additional classes. Non-NY state educations are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

Direct language from <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>

To meet the experience requirement for licensure as a Creative Arts Therapist, you must complete at least 1,500 contact hours of post-degree supervised experience in the practice of Creative Arts Therapy in an approved setting, under a limited permit.

The experience may be completed as a full or part-time employee of the authorized entity or as a volunteer. The State Board does not require employment information or verification (e.g., W-2 or 1099 forms) as part of the experience review. The setting is responsible for providing a qualified supervisor to ensure that the permit holder is completing an acceptable experience (for more supervisor/supervision information, read on).

Approved Settings:

Direct language from <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>

An acceptable setting is defined in the Commissioner’s Regulations as:

- i. a professional corporation, registered limited liability partnership, or professional service limited liability company authorized to provide services that are within the scope of practice of Creative Arts Therapy;*
- ii. a sole proprietorship owned by a licensee who provide services that are within the scope of his or her profession and services that are within the scope of practice of Creative Arts Therapy;*
- iii. a professional partnership owned by licensees who provide services that are within scope of practice of Creative Arts Therapy;*
- iv. a hospital or clinic authorized under Article 28 of the Public Health Law to provide services that are within the scope of practice of Creative Arts Therapy;*
- v. a program or facility authorized under the Mental Hygiene Law to provide services that are within the scope of practice of Creative Arts Therapy;*
- vi. a program or facility authorized under Federal Law to provide services that are within the scope of practice of Creative Arts Therapy;*
- vii. an entity defined as exempt from the licensing requirements or otherwise authorized under New York State law or the laws of the jurisdiction in which the entity is located to provide services that are within the scope of practice of Creative Arts Therapy.*

The setting where the experience is gained is responsible for the services provided by individuals gaining experience for licensure. The setting is also responsible for providing adequate supervision to such individuals and for assigning a qualified supervisor, as defined in this section, to individuals gaining experience for licensure.

What does this mean?

People have been granted limited permits and licensure working in state and county psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes/rehabilitation centers, and entities/organizations overseen by governing bodies, such as the Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Office of Child & Family Services (OCFS), & Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).

IMPORTANT WORDS OF ADVICE:

Whenever applying for a job, be sure to check that the organization where you are seeking work is an approved setting by the NYSED OP before accepting employment, as outlined above. Always ask if other people have received their licensure from working at the site.

Non-profits & Educational settings:

In June 2010, Chapters 130 & 132 of the Laws of 2010 changed the Education Law in regards to settings that are authorized to employ individuals licensed or authorized to practice creative arts therapy, including permit holders. This change in law has established a process through which the Department may grant a waiver from the corporate practice restrictions to qualified **not-for-profit** or **educational corporations**. The waived entities will be authorized to employ persons licensed or authorized to provide professional services, including psychotherapy, while subject to oversight and discipline by the Board of Regents.

What does this mean for you? Pending approval by the Board of Regents, non-profits and educational organizations will become an eligible place of employment for both permit holders and licensed CATs. While the application process for such organizations is not likely to go into effect until early 2011, the law allows an entity that existed on June 18, 2010 to continue providing services (and therefore employing licensed individuals and those on licensure track) until the Department makes a decision on the waiver application.

Approved Supervisors:

Direct language from <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>

Your supervisor must be licensed and registered in New York State as a Creative Arts Therapist, physician, physician assistant, psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, registered professional nurse or nurse practitioner and competent in the practice of Creative Arts Therapy, or must have the equivalent qualifications as determined by the Department.

An applicant must obtain experience for licensure while under the general supervision of a qualified supervisor. General supervision means that a qualified supervisor is available for consultation, assessment and evaluation when professional services are being rendered by an applicant and the supervisor exercises the degree of supervision appropriate to the circumstances.

*The supervisor must provide **at least one hour per week or four hours per month of in-person individual or group supervision where the supervisor:***

- *reviews the applicant's assessment, evaluation and treatment of each client under his or her general supervision; and*
- *provides oversight, guidance and direction to the applicant in developing skills as a Creative Arts Therapist.*

In addition, the supervisor is responsible for appropriate oversight of all services provided by a limited permit holder under his or her general supervision. ***No supervisor can supervise more than five limited permit holders at one time.***

What if there is no LCAT at my job? Who can supervise me onsite so I can get my limited permit and my 1,500 hours?

According to Regulations of the Commissioner, Subpart 79-11, Creative Arts Therapy: *"the supervisor of the experience shall be licensed and registered in New York State to practice creative arts therapy, medicine, as a physician assistant, psychology, licensed clinical social work, or as a registered professional nurse or nurse practitioner."* If you are working in a medical facility, chances are your supervisor will qualify, but confirm they have a current license in one of the aforementioned fields. In some settings Occupational Therapists and Recreational Therapists are supervisors - as of this time they do not qualify, even if they have their NYS license.

If my supervisor is not an LCAT but one of the aforementioned professionals, do they have to have training or experience in a CAT modality?

The supervisor should have training, education or experience in order to engage in any practice, including supervision. A licensee, including a supervisor, is responsible for being competent before agreeing to provide any service or supervision; practicing beyond one's competence could be the basis of a charge of unprofessional conduct. The burden of proof to demonstrate competence in a charge of unprofessional conduct lies with the licensee. – per correspondence from David Hamilton

Is it possible for me to receive my limited permit with outside supervision?

The regulations require that the supervisor assess and evaluate the patient and determine the appropriate treatment, based on licensure and competence, to delegate activities to the permit holder. This does not require the supervisor to be on-site at all times that the permit holder is practicing the profession, but must be available and must authorize the permit holder to engage in those activities the supervisor determines the permit holder is competent to perform under supervision.

“Outside” supervision is possible only if the agency employs the supervisor and the supervisor then assures appropriate supervision, as noted above. The permit applicant cannot employ a supervisor. In the case of third-party supervision, arranged by the employer, the employer should attach to Form 5 an agreement, as outlined in answer #5 under general questions about limited permits on our website: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/mhp-permits-faq.htm>. – per correspondence from David Hamilton

I just became licensed, when can I supervise limited permit holders working toward licensure?

The requirement for three years of licensed practice in the profession, including creative arts therapy, was eliminated; instead the supervisor must be competent to practice and supervise. This is consistent with other professions, where a licensee can engage in the practice of the profession, including supervision, so long as competent. As noted above, the licensee is responsible for ensuring his/her competence and may demonstrate this through advanced certification, education and training. – per correspondence from David Hamilton

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Direct language from the Office of Professions website:

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>

To meet the examination requirement for licensure as a Creative Arts Therapist in New York State, you must pass one of the following examinations:

- *"Board Certification" examination administered by the Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB) www.atcb.org; or*
- *"Board Certification" examination administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapist (CBMT) www.cbmt.org; or*

- *New York State Case Narrative Examination administered by CASTLE Worldwide, Inc.*
www.castleworldwide.com/nysed/

New York does not accept examinations in other professions (e.g., professional counseling, social work, or psychology) as meeting the examination requirement in Creative Arts Therapy.

Before being admitted to an examination for New York State licensure, you must:

1. *Submit an Application for Licensure ([Form 1](#)) and fee (\$371) to the New York State Education Department.*
2. *Ask your school to verify your education directly to the New York State Education Department on the Certification of Professional Education form ([Form 2](#)).*
3. *Receive notification of approval of your education and all application materials from the New York State Education Department. (We will notify you and the examination administrators when you have satisfied the examination eligibility requirements.)*
4. *Register directly with the examination administrator of your choice to take the examination after being notified of your eligibility. You may contact the examination administrator using the contact information below.*

The New York State Case Narrative Examination consists of submission of two case narratives that describe the assessment and treatment of separate clients. This will allow you to demonstrate a basic level of competence in applying the knowledge and skills necessary to practice Creative Arts Therapy in New York State. You will be able to select your own cases in advance, but you will write the case narratives in a supervised, secure test center. Each narrative will be reviewed and scored by the State Board or its designees to determine the thoroughness and appropriateness of your interactions with and your therapeutic approach to the treatment of a client. Additional information regarding this examination is available in the New York State Creative Arts Therapy Case Narrative Licensing Examination Packet <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catexam.htm>

For more information, see the Applying for Licensure – Procedures, Exam Section, pgs 9-10.

APPLYING FOR LICENSURE – PROCEDURES

How do I apply for licensure as a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist?

Direct language from the Office of Professions website:

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>

To apply for licensure, you must:

- *file the application for the Licensed Creative Arts Therapist (Form 1),*
- *pay the application and registration fee (\$371),*
- *have the college or university from which you completed your graduate program verify that you received a master's degree in creative arts therapy or a related degree that includes course content required in the law and regulations (Form 2 and transcript),*
- *apply for a limited permit to meet the requirements for supervised experience and examination in a setting acceptable to the Department (Form 5 and \$70 fee)*
- *pass an acceptable examination (Certification Board for Music Therapy or Art Therapy Credential Board) or two case narratives acceptable to the Department for licensure,*

- *have your employer or supervisor document that you completed 1,500 hours of post-degree supervised experience in creative arts therapy acceptable to the Department (Form 4 and 4B), and*
- *complete the two-hour Department-approved course in child abuse identification and reporting or the exemption (Form 1CE)*

IMPORTANT WORDS OF ADVICE:

Keep copies of all your forms and EVERYTHING you send to and receive from the Office of Professions. You will want to keep copies of everything. Also, keep all email correspondence and take notes during all phone calls. Always get the name of the person you spoke with, and their direct extension if you need to reach them again.

APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE AND LIMITED PERMIT:

What is a limited permit?

A limited permit is a document that allows you to practice Creative Arts Therapy in an approved setting under an approved supervisor. In the State of New York you need to be licensed to practice Creative Arts Therapy. With a limited permit, you are able to acquire the 1,500 hours of experience required for licensure. Even if you are hired under a different title other than Creative Arts Therapist (e.g. Recreation Therapist, Specialist, etc.), you must get your limited permit in order to qualify for licensure.

When should I apply for licensure?

As soon as you graduate, you should apply for licensure. To do this, you need to fill out Form 1 – Application for licensure and Form 2 – Certification of Professional Education. Your college or university must send in your transcript directly to the Office of Professions – you can contact your registrar’s office to request a transcript. For NYU students, you can go to <http://www.nyu.edu/registrar/transcripts-certification/official-transcript.html>. It is suggested that you request the transcript and provide the Office of Professions address in person if possible. In the past, this has expedited the process.

You will need to send payment for \$371 dollars along with your application. These forms can be found on the Office of Professions website - <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catforms.htm>

Do I need to have a job in order to apply for licensure?

No. You can fill out your application and send it in before you have a job.

Is applying for licensure the same as receiving a limited permit?

No. You have to apply for a limited permit separately. You do need to have a job and a supervisor in order to apply for a limited permit. If you have a job, you can send in your application for licensure and your limited permit application at the same time.

How long does it take for my licensure application and limited permit to be processed?

It can take time. Like many government agencies, the Office of Professions is incredibly busy. People have received their limited permits anywhere from 3 weeks to 2 months after applying. If you have not received any information from the Office of Professions after 6 weeks, you can check in with them.

When can I start counting the needed 1,500 hours of experience?

After you receive your limited permit. No work hours count before you receive your limited permit. That is why you are encouraged to apply for licensure immediately after you graduate, and apply for limited permit as soon as you are hired and have a supervisor.

What do I need to do to apply for a limited permit?

You do need a job and a supervisor to apply for limited permit. You fill out Form 5, the application for limited permit and send it in with payment for \$70. Yes, this is an additional \$70 to the \$371 for your application.

Can I apply for a limited permit and not apply for licensure?

No. You need to have your application for licensure in before (or at the same time) as your application for limited permit. Your limited permit application will not be processed without a completed application for licensure.

These forms can be found on the Office of Professions website -

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catforms.htm>

Can I apply for licensure and not a limited permit?

Yes. You can apply for licensure first and then apply for a limited permit once you have a job. The only time that we can think of that you would not need a limited permit is if you find work in a different state other than NY. (See “Out of State Training or Experience” section, pg. 12).

When does the limited permit expire?

After 1 year. You can then re-apply for a second limited permit (and pay another \$70). You have to fulfill both the 1,500 hours of experience and the 2 case narrative examinations within 2 years. You can not extend your limited permit past 2 years.

How do I re-apply for a second limited permit?

To request an extension of your limited permit, you must submit a new Application for Limited Permit ([Form 5](#)) and a fee of \$70 along with a justification for the extension. The justification should be in a letter, explaining what requirements you have fulfilled and why you need the extension. We have not heard of requests that were rejected, so don't worry too much about the justification. Just be sure to send in the information 6 weeks to 1 month before your limited permit is set to expire.

How long does the whole licensure process take?

You are only given two years in which to complete the process. (The initial limited permit is good for 1 year, and then you can renew only once for a total of two years). If you are working full time (35 or 40 hours per week), you will complete your required experience in 38 - 43 weeks (not counting vacations, holidays, etc.). That is about 9 -10 months. If you want to complete the process within one year, it is suggested that you take your exams as soon as possible after receiving your limited permit. **NOTE** - Experience is not reviewed until you have met the examination requirement. See the “**IMPORTANT WORDS OF ADVICE**” in the Exams section.

Coming soon, online registration:

The Office of Professions is in the process of creating an online registration system which will eradicate common errors made on forms sent by mail and also cut down on cost for the State. They will also add an option where applicants can find out the status of their application as it journeys through the system instead of waiting without word.

EXAMS – for full information, go to <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catexam.htm> and see pg. 6 of this document

What exams do I need to take?

Art and Music Therapists have board certification exams that qualify for licensure, so they do not need to take Case Narrative Exams. Drama Therapists and other CATs do not yet have certification exams, so we do need to take the New York State Case Narrative Exams. We have to take 2 Case Narrative Exams, writing about a different client for each exam.

Will Drama Therapists ever have their own exam?

The North American Association of Drama Therapy (NADTA) has begun the process of creating a national exam. This process, led by Paige Dickinson, PhD, RDT-BCT, will provide a current review of the body of knowledge and competency areas in the field of drama therapy. The creation of the exam is a long and labor intensive process. The NADTA does not yet know how or if the exam will be used in the future. Full FAQ information about the exam can be found on the NADTA website:

<http://www.nadt.org/assets/documents/exam-faq.pdf>

When do I apply for the exams?

After your application for licensure is received by the Office of Professions, you will receive a letter stating “the Department has approved your admission to the Creative Arts Therapy examination.” You can then register for the Case Narrative Examination which is administered by CASTLE Worldwide Inc.

How much do the exams cost?

As of January 2010, the Case Narrative exams cost \$390 each. Yes, you have to take 2 different exams, and each exam costs \$390 for a total of \$780.

What is the procedure for registering for the exam?

You can register for the exam on the Castle Worldwide website. You have to pay the \$390 fee before you can even look at the available dates on which to take the exam. Don’t worry, the exam is offered at a number of different locations in Manhattan (maybe outer boroughs too), multiple times each month, possibly daily. You can register for both exams at the same time (if you pay both fees), or you can register at separate times. You can take one exam first, wait for your results, and then schedule the second. Or you can schedule the two exams back to back, on the same day, within the same week, etc. This is your choice.

Note, if you schedule your exam, they only let you cancel or postpone in the case of emergency. And you have to pay an additional \$35 fee (as of 1/10). So don’t register for the exam unless you are sure that you will be able and prepared to take it on that day.

What is the exam like?

The exam is 3 hours long. You can not bring in any notes or case files into the testing cite. They make you lock up all of your personal belongings including phone, watch, etc. before entering the testing room. You will be presented with an on-line testing environment, which you can see before you start the exam. You must type in all of your information within 3 hours.

All of the criteria for the exam and scoring can be found at <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catexam.htm>

You need a 75 to pass the exam. If you fail the exam, you will be given one opportunity to re-do the exam at no extra cost. You will receive notes from the raters which will help you know which areas need improvement. If you pass, you will not get a grade. You will receive a letter that simply says “Pass” or “Fail”.

Do I have to write about current clients for my Case Narrative exams?

No! You can choose clients you worked with in internships, or in actual employment situations. You will want to choose clients you worked with enough to know their psychosocial histories and DSM diagnoses. You also need to write about presenting problems, treatment goals and objectives, treatment plans, and treatment outcomes. You have to write about an individual client, and not a group – but you can write about an individual you worked with in group sessions. If you are currently in internship, take good notes so you can use one of your internship clients for the exam.

How long does it take to receive the results from the exam?

This varies. People have received results in 3 weeks up to about 3 months.

IMPORTANT WORDS OF ADVICE:

You have to be working under a limited permit until you receive your license. You need to have a limited permit even if you are waiting for your test results or waiting for the Office of Professions to process your experience hours. If you want to finish the licensure process in one year, it is **STRONGLY SUGGESTED** that you take both of your exams within the first 6 months, so the Office of Professions has time to process everything. Your experience will not be reviewed until you have met the examination requirement. If you work full time, you will likely finish your 1,500 hours of experience within 9-10 months. Many people take 2 years to finish their requirements. Be sure to apply for an extension to your limited permit 6 weeks to 1 month before your permit is set to expire.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CURRENT STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES:

I am currently a student in the Drama Therapy or other CAT program. What can I do now to help myself prepare for the licensure process?

You can help yourself prepare for the Case Narrative exam by reviewing the exam criteria on the Office of Professions website: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catexam.htm> You can write about a client you work with during your internship, so be sure to take complete and copious notes so you can review them in preparation for the exam. You will need to write about a client with a DSM diagnosis, so be familiar with the DSM and your client's specific diagnoses.

Try to network with as many professionals in the field as possible so you have a sense of the job market. Review the approved site and approved supervisor criteria on the Office of Professions website so you know what questions to ask when you begin to look for jobs.

After I graduate, can I call myself a Drama Therapist or a Creative Arts Therapist? According to Education Law, Article 163, for Mental Health Practitioners Section 8404:

- Practice of creative arts therapy and use of the titles "creative arts therapist" and "licensed creative arts therapist". Only a person licensed or exempt under this article shall practice creative arts therapy or use the title "creative arts therapist". Only a person licensed under this article shall use the title "licensed creative arts therapist" or any other designation tending to imply that the person is licensed to practice creative arts therapy.*

The law restricts the practice and use of the titles, established in law, which means that only a licensee can use the title "LCAT" or similar terms. The restriction on practice includes "psychotherapy" so the use of any title, such as "therapist" presents a question of the individual's intent in using such a term. An individual may indicate that he/she has a master's degree, but cannot practice a profession or imply the ability to practice any profession. Only a licensed creative arts therapist, permit holder under supervision, or person otherwise authorized under law, can engage in "psychotherapy" so the use of the title "Drama Therapist" should not be used to describe any of the activities restricted under law. – per correspondence from David Hamilton.

We have heard that the Department of Justice is now stating that only LCATs can sign off on clinical paperwork. Thus people working under a limited permit could not sign off on paperwork. Are there any "scope of practice" issues that are different for LCATs and limited permit holders?

Answer. We cannot address questions about the "Department of Justice" and their policies or procedures. The use of the title LCAT and similar designations is restricted under law. A permit holder can only practice the profession under supervision and should clearly indicate in signing any documents that he/she is a permit holder. There are no requirements in Education Law for the supervisor to co-sign

documents, but this may be a requirement for some institutions, (e.g., hospitals) or payers (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, etc.). Questions about reimbursement and documentation should be directed to the supervisor and the agency to address in regard to policy of oversight agencies and payers. – per correspondence from David Hamilton.

INFORMATION FOR OUT-OF-STATE EDUCATION OR EXPERIENCE:

Applying for your permit/license when you have trained outside of NYS:

For those seeking licensure who have trained outside of NYS **AND have a license in CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY** from that other state or country, you can check the box marked "License by Endorsement" on the application form. Again, this option **ONLY** applies to people who are already licensed in another state as a CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIST and have been practicing for 5 years (in the last 10 years). This will be an unlikely option until there are other states granting licensure for CATS.

This is not so helpful for individuals coming out of training from the other North American programs in Drama Therapy who either have a license as a MFT or no license at all. To clarify, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) from California or in fact any Drama Therapists seeking licensure in NYS without an existing license in Creative Arts Therapy will need to go through the "Initial Licensure" track in order for the Office of Professions to verify course work, supervision, etc.

I graduated from an NYS approved CAT Master's Degree program, but then got a job in a state other than NY (e.g. NJ or CT), would I need to get a limited permit? Would I be eligible for licensure after completing the 1,500 experience hours and the exam requirements? Would I be eligible to take the NY state Case Narrative Exam? Would I need to apply for licensure first before qualifying to take the Case Narrative exam?

Answer: The limited permit is available only for practice in NY. We would review experience completed in another jurisdiction on the basis of Form 4B submitted by the supervisor, after the experience, to determine if the applicant completed the required hours in creative arts therapy and psychotherapy under a qualified supervisor and authorized setting, as defined in the laws and regulations of that jurisdiction. We cannot provide prior review of a setting or supervisor outside of NY.

An individual is only eligible to take the exam upon the filing of the application for licensure (Form 1) and fee (\$371) and approval of the education by the Department, based on Form 2 and transcript review. The applicant could meet those requirements while completing experience in another jurisdiction. Experience is not reviewed until the applicant has met the examination requirement, in this case, two case narratives acceptable to the Department, and may not practice in NY until licensed and registered by SED. – per correspondence with David Hamilton

Direct language from <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>

Any experience completed in another jurisdiction may be accepted by the Department if it was completed in a setting authorized to provide Creative Arts Therapy in that jurisdiction and the experience was provided under a qualified supervisor, as determined by the Department. The supervised experience must be obtained after completion of the master's or higher degree program required for licensure. (evaluated on a case-by-case basis)

I received my Master's Degree in a Creative Arts Therapy modality outside of NY State. Can I become an LCAT in New York?

Maybe. The Office of Professions does specify "Substantial Equivalence" to the education requirement. Education outside of NY State is considered on a case-by-case basis. For complete information go to: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/catlic.htm>

As stated earlier, one individual who received a Master's in Drama Therapy from CIIS in California over eight years ago was instructed to take an additional class in order to qualify for licensure (see page 3). Non-NY state educations are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

If you have an education or experience from outside NY State and are applying for licensure, the task force would appreciate hearing about your experiences. Please contact us at nadtntaskforce@gmail.com