WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §30-31A-8

§30-31A-8. Adverse actions.

(a) In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote state may, in accordance with existing state due process law:

(1) Take adverse action against a licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice within that member state; and

(2) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a licensing board in a member state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another member state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence are located.

(3) Only the home state may take adverse action against a licensed professional counselor's license issued by the home state.

(b) For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state shall give the same priority and effect to the reported conduct received from a member state as it would if the conduct had occurred within the home state. In so doing, the home state shall apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action.

(c) The home state shall complete any pending investigations of a licensed professional counselor who changes primary state of residence during the investigations. The home state may take appropriate action or actions and shall promptly report the conclusions of the investigations to the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the new home state of any adverse actions.

(d) A member state, if otherwise permitted by state law, may recover from the affected licensed professional counselor the costs of investigations and dispositions of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against that licensed professional counselor.

(e) A member state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote state, provided that the member state follows its own procedures for taking the adverse action.

(f) *Joint investigations. —*

(1) In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its respective professional

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counseling practice act or other applicable state law, any member state may participate with other member states in joint investigations of licensees.

(2) Member states shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance materials in furtherance or any joint or individual investigation initiated under the compact.

(g) If adverse action is taken by the home state against the license of a licensed professional counselor, the licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice in all other member states shall be deactivated until all encumbrances have been removed from the state license. All home state disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against the license of a licensed professional counselor shall include a statement that the licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice is deactivated in all member states during the pendency of the order.

(h) If a member state takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the home state of any adverse actions by remote states.

(i) Nothing in this compact may override a member state's decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action.

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