



Role of Professional Credentials in the Regulatory Profession

In a field where a standard degree does not exist, it is important to have a standard professional credential validating the knowledge, skills, and abilities of staff to be competent in regulatory field.

Professional credentials allow an individual to extend their education beyond their background into specific areas related to their career. Obtaining a professional credential, acknowledges an individual is competent in core competencies and has continued their education. Credentials recognize an individual as an expert in the field and lend credibility when actions are brought into question, such as during administrative hearings.

The National Association of Regulatory Administration (NARA) strongly recommends states, provinces, and territories adopt requirements for staff to be competent in regulatory practices in order to ensure individuals are competent in the field of regulation in addition to content-specific degree requirements related to the field individuals are regulating.

The NARA National Regulatory Professional Credential (NRPC) recognizes professional performance and achievement and affirms a unique body of knowledge related to human care regulation. Human care regulation includes the regulatory fields related to adult care, child care, and child welfare. Specifically, protecting the health and safety of adults and children in out-of-home care, particularly vulnerable adults and children. Upon completion of the NRPC, individuals are competent in the following areas

- Different types of regulatory administration
- Rule-making process
- Legal and conceptual basis of licensing law and practice
- Constitutional due process related to enforcement
- Standardization of regulatory practice implementation through a regulatory framework
- Enforcement strategies for compliance in a variety of regulatory situations
- Six phases of the licensing process: Inquiry, Application, Inspection, License Issuance Decision, Compliance Monitoring, and Renewal
- Evidentiary process for the administrative or judicial process
- Balanced use of authority is used in regulatory practice
- Proper techniques for fielding and managing complaints
- Principles and practices of suppressing illegal operations
- Ethical decision-making framework

The professional credential also means adherence to a specific set of standards and a code of ethics. Finally, it certifies a commitment to continuous professional growth and to excellence in human care licensing. The NARA Credential is transferable to all states and all jurisdictions.

For information about NARA and the NRPC Credential, please visit www.naralicensing.org or contact the association at (859) 269.1601.

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