
PPA Act 31 FAQs

Act 31 of 2104 requires licensed health care professionals in Pennsylvania to take a course in child abuse recognition and reporting laws. How often do these course have to be taken?

Starting in 2015, all persons who hold health care licenses in Pennsylvania and all funeral directors have to take an approved continuing education course in child abuse recognition and reporting that has been approved by both the Department of State and the Department of Public Welfare before they can have their licenses renewed. This law will apply to all license renewals after January 1, 2015.

PPA's home study course, "Pennsylvania Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting: 2015" fulfills this requirement. A copy of this home study was mailed to every licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania. In addition, it can be found on line on the PPA website, under Continuing Education, Act 31.

How many continuing education hours are associated with this course?

Two (2).

Has PPA's Act 31 program been approved for any other licensees?

Yes, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare has approved this CE program as meeting the Act 31 requirements for licensed psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, nurses, and physicians. PPA is currently looking into the possibility of having its program meet Act 31 requirements for all licensees.

How can I find out if a course fulfills Act 31 requirement?

The Pennsylvania Department of State has a list of entities who can offer an approved course. This list can be found on the website of the State Board of Psychology at: http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Pages/Act-31-Mandated-Child-Abuse-Recognition-and-Reporting-Continuing-Education-Providers.aspx#.VS_s8k10xQJ.

The PPA course is unique, however, in that it was written by psychologists for psychologists.

I took a course that fulfilled Act 126 requirements (child abuse recognition and reporting requirements for school personnel). Can this course fulfill my Act 31 requirements?

According to Act 31, persons are exempt from the continuing education requirement if they participated in a program in fulfillment of Act 126 requirements that was at least two (2) hours long. But be certain to complete the exemption form required of the Department of

State. Which is on the website of the State Board of Psychology (under Announcements):
http://www.dos.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_board_of_psychology/12521

Also, psychologists should remember that they need to take a course in child abuse recognition and reporting every renewal period. So educators who were exempted from taking an Act 31 course to renew their licenses in 2015 would nonetheless have to take an additional course in order to renew their licenses in 2017.

I took a course approved by the Department of Public Welfare and the Office of Children and Youth that was not from an APA approved provider of continuing education. Will it still count toward the 30 hours of continuing education required by the State Board of Psychology for licensing renewal?

Yes.

Will courses fulfilling Act 31 requirements count toward the requirement of the State Board of Psychology to take at least three hours of continuing education in ethics per renewal period as a condition for licensing renewal?

No. Courses that fulfill the Act 31 requirement cannot be used to fulfill the ethics requirement.

When does the new child abuse reporting law go into effect?

It goes into effect on December 31, 2014.

Do I need to change my informed consent form in light of the changes to the Child Protective Services Law?

Yes. PPA has recommended some language to add to your informed consent form. This should be added to the forms used for both adults and children. You may find the recommended changes on the PPA website, look under Continuing Education, then under Act 31, then under informed consent changes.

I am a graduate student who is seeking to become licensed during 2015. Act 31 requires me to take one three (3) hour course in child abuse recognition and reporting before I become licensed. Will PPA's course meet this requirement?

No. PPA's course is only for two hours. However, other courses that do meet this requirement can be found on the website of the State Board of Psychology at:
http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Pages/Act-31-Mandated-Child-Abuse-Recognition-and-Reporting-Continuing-Education-Providers.aspx#.VS_s8k10xQJ

Is there a discount for groups?

Yes. Groups where five or more members take the training will receive a 20% discount for both members and non-members. Contact PPA for more information on this option.

Will my information be transmitted to the appropriate licensing board?

Yes. PPA sends this information to the Department of State on a daily basis. However, your name needs to be entered *EXACTLY* as it appears on your license in order for this information to be successfully transferred to the correct licensing board. This is an electronic process, and the program will only recognize information that is entered correctly.

Do you have any questions that weren't answered here? Contact us at ppa@papsy.org.