STATE OF INDIANA….

Licensing proves proficiency in the methods of mental health to potential employers. Licensure is required by most states and/or employers. Licensure allows the mental health professional to gain credentials required for employment and also for liability and insurance purposes. There are also ethical and safety regulations that provide guidance and backing for the professional. Upon obtaining licensure many organizations require continuing education to renew and/or keep the credential in order to stay current on education with current trends and issues in treatment.

The state of Indiana requires minimum standards be met before applying for licensure as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC). A Master’s degree in an area related to mental health counseling with at least 60 semester hours not less than 48. The clinical part of education must consist of at least one supervised clinical practicum, internship, or field experience in a counseling setting consisting of a minimum of 1,000 hours of one practicum of 100 hours, one internship of 600 hours and one advanced internship of 300 hours with at least 100 hours of face to face supervision. An applicant must also have at least 3,000 hours of post-graduate clinical experience over a two year period with 100 of those hours being face to face supervision of a currently licensed LMHC. The applicant must also pass the examination provided by the board.

Some of the challenges to this counselor obtaining licensure are the residential colliquia’s required for our clinical program completion. This counselor is currently employed as a counselor full time and also as a full time single mother! There may be a severe conflict with time off work and away from home responsibilities that could become an issue to have to be dealt with. Another challenge for this counselor may be lack of properly credentialed supervision availability and still the problem of time off of work. This counselor is not sure how this will all work out, however, has faith that God’s plan for her will work itself out in his time!

http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title25/ar23.6/ch8.5.html