

Rule 375-5-6-.06 ~~DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction~~ Qualifications of Program Instructors

- (1) **Initial qualifications.** To be certified by the Department, each Applicant for Program Instructor shall meet the following initial qualifications:
- (a) **Clear criminal record.** Each Applicant for Program Instructor shall be subject to a fingerprint-based check of ~~his or her~~their criminal history, as designated by the Department, for review of any convictions. ~~No person with a conviction of a felony or any other crime involving violence or a crime of moral turpitude or a pattern of misdemeanors that evidences a disregard for the law, shall be certified by the Department as a Program Instructor, unless he or she has received a pardon and can produce evidence of same. For the purposes of this chapter, a plea of *nolo contendere* and "first offender" sentences imposed pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 42-8-60, et seq., shall be considered a conviction.~~
- i. Unless pardoned, an Applicant convicted of a felony shall be disqualified from Certification by the Department.
- ii. An Applicant convicted for a dangerous sexual offense or an offense against a victim who was a minor at the time of the offense shall be permanently disqualified from eligibility.
- iii. Unless pardoned, an Applicant with the following convictions shall be disqualified from Certification by the Department for a period of 10 years from custody or supervision:
- A. a crime involving violence;
B. a crime of moral turpitude; or
- (b) **Safe driving record.** Each Applicant for Program Instructor shall possess a valid driver's license from the state of ~~his or her~~their legal residence, ~~unless he or she has a medical condition that makes him or her~~them ineligible for a driver's license. Each Applicant for Program Instructor shall be subject to a check of ~~his or her~~their driving history. No Person whose driver's license or privilege to drive has been suspended or revoked as the result of any conviction or combination of convictions during the five ~~(5)~~ year period ~~of~~ immediately preceding application for Certification shall be certified by the Department as a Program Instructor.
- (c) **Academic and work experience qualifications.** Each Applicant for Program Instructor shall have the following documented academic and/or prior work experience requirements:
- (i) ~~An Associate, Bachelors, undergraduate or graduate. A degree~~ A degree from an accredited college or university ~~in a human service related field; or~~
- (ii) ~~An undergraduate degree in any field of study from an accredited institution, and two (2) years of work experience; or (20 hours per week or more) of teaching, counseling or training experience or three (3) years part time training experience; or~~
- (iii)(ii) A high school diploma or GED and Aat least two (2) years of full-time work experience as a licensed, certified, or credentialed substance abuse

counselor with at least six-~~(6)~~ months of experience in group counseling or group facilitation.

- (d) **Age.** Each Applicant for Program Instructor shall be at least ~~twenty-one (21)~~ years of age.
 - (e) **Freedom from substance abuse and illicit drug use.** Each Applicant for Program Instructor shall certify to the Department that ~~he or she~~ they refrains from, and will continue to refrain from, abusing alcoholic beverages or controlled substances and from using illicit drugs.
- (2) **Ongoing qualifications.** Each Instructor certified by the Department shall possess the following qualifications, on an ongoing basis:
- (a) **Continued clear criminal record.** Each Program Instructor shall maintain a criminal record free of felony or misdemeanor convictions or pleas. In addition, each Instructor certified by the Department shall notify the Department if ~~he or she~~ they ~~pleads~~ plead guilty or nolo contendere to, or is convicted of, any felony or misdemeanor within five-~~(5)~~ business days immediately following such event. Further, each Program Instructor certified by the Department shall, within five-~~(5)~~ business days immediately thereafter, report to the Department any arrests, ~~which~~ that, if convicted thereof, would have excluded him or her from becoming initially certified as a Program Instructor pursuant to Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 375-5-6-.06(1)(a). The Department may suspend or revoke, ~~or cancel~~ any Program Instructor Certification upon receipt of notice of a conviction or arrest.
 - (b) **Continued safe driving record.** Each Program Instructor shall continue to maintain a safe driving record during ~~his or her~~ their period of Certification by the Department. Each Program Instructor shall continue to possess a valid driver's license from the state of ~~his or her~~ their legal residence, unless ~~he or she~~ they has a medical condition that makes ~~him or her~~ them ineligible for a driver's license. Each Program Instructor shall notify the Department, within five-~~(5)~~ business days immediately thereafter, if ~~his or her~~ their driver's license or privilege to drive is cancelled, suspended, or revoked in any jurisdiction, including the State of Georgia, for any reason. The Department may suspend, or revoke, ~~or cancel~~ any Program Instructor's Certification upon receipt of such notice.
 - (c) **Continuing education.** Each Program Instructor shall complete a minimum of ~~thirty-two (32)~~ hours of continuing education in alcohol and drug training or group facilitation training sponsored or approved by the Department every four-~~(4)~~ years; ~~of which, a~~ A minimum of ~~sixteen (16)~~ hours shall be in Department-designated refresher courses specific to Program components. Each Program Instructor shall complete a minimum of ~~sixteen (16)~~ of the required ~~thirty-two (32)~~ hours of continuing education training biannually and provide proof thereof to the Department on a biannual basis. ~~The Department may cancel a Program Instructor's certification for failure to complete a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of continuing education training and to provide proof thereof to the Department biannually.~~

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 40-5-82, 40-5-83.

SYNOPSIS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND MAIN FEATURES OF PROPOSED RULE

The purpose of this amendment is to update the DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program rules.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXISTING AND PROPOSED RULES

Subsection (1)(a) is revised to be similar to 375-5-6-.04 (1). Subsection (1)(c) is revised to be concise. Subsection (2)(c) is revised to be more accurate. Continuing education units are a part of the application to recertify. An instructor would not be cancelled since they only submit when they recertify every four years. The rule title is revised to be consistent with the Owners rule.