

## **WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?**

Certification is a form of credentialing a voluntary regulation of a profession. It is the process by which a non-government organization grants recognition to persons who have met certain standards defined by that organization.

Certification is designed to promote and maintain integrity and quality.

The Iowa Board of Certification was developed by and for substance abuse and other behavioral health professionals. Iowa has established certification as a process by which a professional is measured and tested. In return for meeting and fulfilling certification requirements, the certified professional obtains a tool for marketing his/her skills and competencies.

## **PURPOSES OF CERTIFICATION**

### ***For the Patient/Client....***

To assure competent professional services to the client, and to improve quality of service being provided to the client and family members.

### ***For the Public...***

To assure professional competency which will meet standards required for licensing, accreditation and third-party payers.

### ***For the Certified Professional...***

To provide a respected, marketable credential of professional competency, and to enhance the role of the professional.

### ***For the Profession...***

To provide a method whereby the highest professional standards can be established, maintained and updated.

## **WHY BECOME CERTIFIED?**

1. Certification marks the professionals who are specialists in their field.
2. Certified professionals may be recognized in state and national insurance legislation, Federal Department of Transportation regulations, and agency staffing requirements.
3. Opportunity for peer networking, involvement and impact through IBC sponsored education conferences and committee work.
4. Certification increases professionalism of the field.
5. Employers use the credential as a basis for hiring and possibly for advancement.
6. Many employers require certification upon employment, or within a set timeline from the date of hire.
7. Receive the IBC newsletter.
8. Freedom to move to another state/country within the IC&RC and be granted that state's/country's credential or license.
9. Recourse for the client who may have been treated incompetently or unethically by a certified professional.