



Association of Child Life Professionals Child Life Certification Commission Operational Policy and Procedure

SUBJECT: 3.0 PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION AND RATIONALE

LEAD AUTHOR(s): Geri Sehnert

CONTRIBUTERS: Sherwood Burns-Nader, Monica Gibson, Child Life Certification Commission, Certification Communications Committee, Recertification Audit Committee

POLICY

3.01 Certification Purpose

The Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) certification is a rigorous, examination-based, professional certification developed to assess the readiness of an individual to enter the profession of child life. Its purpose is to increase the proficiency of child life professionals by identifying a body of knowledge, establishing a level of comprehension and performance necessary for certification, and increasing the value of practitioners to their employers.

Those individuals who attain CCLS certification should be able to provide accurate assessments, interventions, and evaluations of children and families. The provision of child life services by CCLSs is a quality benchmark of an integrated child health delivery system and an indicator of excellence in pediatric care. Ultimately the only method for assuring both employers and parents/families that the highest standards of practice in child life will be addressed is the utilization of Certified Child Life Specialists. To ensure quality child life service provision, it is the position of the ACLP and the CCLS certification program that child life services should be provided by Certified Child Life Specialists.

3.02 Certification Rationale

Obtaining the CCLS credential provides many benefits for child life specialists. It provides 1) professional identity as a CCLS, the only credential offered in the child life profession, 2) recognition of a professional accomplishment, 3) enhanced career opportunities, 4) respect for specialized knowledge and expertise from other professionals, management, and peers,

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5) dedication to continued professional excellence, and 6) demonstration of passion and commitment to the child life profession.

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