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

SUBJECT: 4.0 CERTIFICATION TARGET POPULATION

LEAD AUTHOR(s): Geri Sehnert
CONTRIBUTERS: Sherwood Burns-Nader, Monica Gibson, CLCC, Certification Communications Committee, Recertification Audit Committee

RATIONALE

• To define the target population of certification as those who wish to obtain and maintain the credentials of a Certified Child Life Specialist.
• Professionals in child life have expertise in helping children and their families overcome life’s most challenging events.
• Using play and psychological preparation as primary tools, child life interventions facilitate coping and adjustment at times and under circumstances that might otherwise prove overwhelming to children and families.
• The certification program credentials individuals who display the needed knowledge and training to appropriately work with children and families experiencing such life challenges and provides the CCLS credential to those who are able to demonstrate the ability to perform at job entry level in the child life field.

POLICIES:

Certification Target Population

The target population for the CCLS certification program consists of those professionals, meeting the eligibility requirements and having expertise in helping children and their families overcome life’s most challenging events, with emphasis on healthcare settings. It is directed at those individuals who have the capacity for minimum competency at the job-entry level in the field of child life. This includes completion of academic and clinical training necessary to prepare individuals for entry-level job competence.