



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

SUBJECT: 7.0 Repeat Exam Attempts

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RATIONALE:

Research shows a relationship between false negatives and false positives and the number of attempts at certification examinations (Brennan, 2006). With multiple attempts, the likelihood of a false positive increases (i.e., passing the exam but not actually having the needed competencies for the profession) whereas the likelihood of a false negative decreases to about zero.

In order to decrease false positives and eliminate exposure to the same examination form, the Child Life Certification Commission will limit the number of times a candidate may sit for the Child Life Professional Certification Examination. This will help protect the credential and the public by decreasing the chance of an unqualified candidate passing the exam.

POLICY

Candidates can only take the exam once per testing window. Three test forms will be available each year. Therefore, candidates are allowed to sit for the examination three times per year and will be administered a different test form with each attempt. After three attempts, a candidate must skip an administration (testing window) of the examination. If they fail a fourth time, candidates must skip another administration of the examination prior to taking a fifth time. When a candidate is required to skip an examination administration, the candidate is encouraged to seek out learning opportunities and coursework to gain further information regarding the child life profession and skills.

If eligibility requirements have changed since the last examination attempt, a candidate must re-establish eligibility prior to retaking the examination.

Candidates are limited to taking the examination 5 times. Additional attempts require the approval of the Appeals Committee.

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DEFINITIONS:

False Negative: A test result that incorrectly indicates that a candidate does not have the required knowledge, skills, and abilities when the individual actually does.

False Positive: A test result that incorrectly indicates that a candidates has the required knowledge, skills, and abilities when the individual does not.

Testing Window: A timeframe in which an exam in offered.

PROCEDURE

All candidates for the Child Life professional Certification Examination must meet the eligibility requirements in effect for each testing window during which they will test. See Policy 1 of Candidate Policies- Establishing Eligibility.

- The candidate will sit for first examination attempt and receive test form A.
- If the candidate fails on their first attempt, they may take the exam during the next testing window provided they meet the eligibility requirements in effect at that time. The candidate will be administered a different test form (B).
- If the candidate fails on their second attempt, they may take the exam during the next testing window provided they meet the eligibility requirements in effect at that time. Candidate will be administered a different test form (C).
- After third attempt, candidate must sit out one testing window and will be encouraged to seek additional knowledge and skills to prepare for the exam.
- The candidate may then sit for a fourth examination attempt. Candidate will be administered a different test form (D).
- After fourth attempt, candidate must sit out one testing window and will be encouraged to seek additional knowledge and skills to prepare for the exam.
- The candidate may then sit for the fifth and final examination attempt. The candidate will be administered a test form new to them (E).

Example:

	Administrations		
	March	August	November
Year 1, forms A, B, C active; form A retires at the end of the year	A	B	C
Year 2, forms B, C, D active; form B retires at the end of the year	Candidate must skip	D	Candidate must skip
Year 3, forms C, D, E active; form C retires at the end of the year	E		

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REOURCES

- Child Life Professional Certification Candidate Manual

REFERENCES

Brennan, R. (Ed.) (2006). *Educational measurement* (4th ed). Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

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