



## Certified Shame-Informed Treatment Specialist (CSTS) Certification Standards

### 1.0 Professional Standards

1.1 State or Nationally licensed as listed below AND completed all training hours and supervision requirements to be licensed for independent practice in the state they are licensed in (or equivalent if practicing outside of the United States):

- Psychologist (LP or LCP)
- Counselor
  - LCMHC
  - LCP
  - LCPC
  - LMHC
  - LPC
  - LPCC
  - LPCMH
- Social Worker
  - LCSW
  - LCSW-C
  - LICSW
  - LISW
  - LISW-CP
  - LMSW if licensed in Michigan or Nebraska
- LMSW-ACP
- LSCSW
- Marriage and Family Therapist
  - LCMFT
  - LIMFT
  - LMFT
- Addictions Counselor (LCAS)
- Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC or LADAC)
- Chemical Dependency/Substance Abuse Counselor (LCDP or LCSTP)
- Advanced Practice Nurse (APN)
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Psychiatrist (MD)
- Psychoanalyst (LP)
- Board Certified Behavioral Analyst

Canadian Applicants: Licensed professionals who have met the licensure requirements for Provincial and Territorial Regulatory Bodies are welcome to apply. If you are unsure whether your professional background meets the standards for Certification, please email us a copy of your educational background and CV to [info@evergreencertifications.com](mailto:info@evergreencertifications.com)

International Applicants: Please check for a link to standards specific to your country of practice. If no link is available, please email us a copy of your educational background and CV to [info@evergreencertifications.com](mailto:info@evergreencertifications.com)

1.2 The applicant must:

- Be in good standing with the State Board that licenses him/her, including not being on probationary status for any reason.
- Not have been ethically or professionally denied application to or renewal of his/her professional membership in local, state or national associations to which he/she is qualified within the past 5 years.
- Not have had his/her professional or medical privileges restricted, revoked, or revised in any formal institutional setting (e.g., hospital, clinic or other clinical setting) based upon professional malpractice within the last 5 years.

### 2.0 Educational Standards

2.1 The applicant must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 12 hours at a post-graduate level):

- Understand the continuum of self-evaluative emotions: Shame, Guilt, Embarrassment, Remorse, Regret, Self-Criticism, Self-Loathing
- The role of attachment in the formation of shame-based identity
- The neurobiology of shame and trauma
  - Core shame and implicit memory
  - Polyvagal theory, neuroception and shame
- Assessment of shame-prone clients including:
  - Multicultural considerations
  - Identifying verbal and non-verbal signs of shame
  - Defenses against shame including lying, blaming, narcissism, addictions, perfectionism and more
- Attunement and connection as the key to therapeutic change with shame-prone clients
  - Therapeutic empathy as the antidote to shame
  - Balancing power in the therapeutic relationship
- Interventions and clinical strategies for treating core shame including
  - Somatic approaches to cultivate secure attachment
  - Mindfulness and meditations
  - Strategies to replicate conditions for healthy attachment
  - Self-compassion exercises
- Integrate shame-informed clinical strategies into the treatment of:
  - Trauma
  - Anxiety and stress
  - Substance use
  - Anger and rage
  - Perfectionism
  - Co-dependency
  - Depression, self-harm, suicidality

2.2 Examples of suitable education sources include, but are not limited to:

- Post-Graduate level coursework from an accredited college or university as documented by a copy of the course syllabus and a transcript showing completion of the course
- Approved Continuing Education as documented by certificates of completion from training organization

### **3.0 Required Documentation for Certification Eligibility**

1. A copy of the applicant's professional license
2. Copies of completion of training as outlined in the Educational Standards
3. Payment of certification application fee

Evergreen Certifications will certify applicants who meet the above requirements.

*Please note: Certification does not imply endorsement of clinical competency. As a licensed professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your profession's standards.*

### **4.0 Required Documentation for Renewal of Certification**

To maintain Certification, a reapplication is required. The steps to apply for a 1-year reapplication are as follows:

1. Submit, via email, a copy of your professional license as well as a completion certificate for six (6) clock hours of post-graduate level, shame-focused training to [info@evergreencertifications.com](mailto:info@evergreencertifications.com)
2. Payment of re-certification application fee

You can also apply for reapplication for 2 or 3 years. Follow the process above, submitting twelve (12) clock hours of training for a 2-year reapplication, and eighteen (18) clock hours of training for a 3-year application.

Re-certification training hours need to have been taken in the time since you were last certified or recertified. Renewals are calculated from the date that your Certification was issued. If you allow your Certification to lapse for more than 3 years, you are no longer eligible to renew your Certification and instead can reapply for Certification.