

LASACT and ADRA What's the Difference?

The LASACT office gets many inquiries that need to be directed to ADRA, and vice versa. We would like to clarify the difference between the roles of the two organizations and hopefully clear up some of the confusion between the two. The two organizations work together closely, but their roles are very different.

LASACT is the statewide professional association for addiction professionals. It is a membership organization with dues of \$90 per calendar year. LASACT's job, according to its Mission Statement is *"To promote and enhance addiction professionals and providers in areas of treatment, education, prevention and advocacy."* Therefore, LASACT's role is primarily education and advocacy.

LASACT also has a Certification Examining Board (CEB), which handles credentialing and certification issues and functions under authority granted to it by LASACT. CEB carries out its duties independent of the political structure of LASACT. CEB currently contracts with ADRA to administer testing to certification applicants and, in the case of the CCS credential, review portfolios.

The role of the Addictive Disorders Regulatory Authority (ADRA), which came into being in July, 2004, with the passage of Act 803, is to issue credentials to practice substance abuse counseling, compulsive gambling counseling, and prevention counseling in the state of Louisiana. **All questions regarding practice credentials should be directed to ADRA at 225.922.7700 and not to LASACT.**

Some of the confusion probably stems from the fact that prior to the inception of the old State Board in 1989, LASACT's Certification Examining Board (CEB) issued all certifications that were available to addiction professionals in Louisiana. At the present time LASACT/CEB administers the IC&RC testing under contract with ADRA, but **ADRA dispenses the test results and issues the certifications.**

In summary, contact ADRA if you have questions and concerns related to practice credentials – how to apply for them, when they expire, testing schedules, test scores, etc. You can get lots of your questions answered, download forms, etc. by looking at ADRA's web page: www.la-adra.org.

Contact LASACT for information about educational opportunities, annual Conference, legislative advocacy, employment opportunities, Betty Breen Memorial Tuition Foundation, etc. Visit our web page at www.lasact.org for answers to many of your questions. Contact LASACT/CEB for information about certifications they offer.