Counseling Compact Rules Committee Meeting

September 24, 2026, 12:00 p.m. ET

Zoom

Committee Members Present – Voting

Angie Smith, Chair
Tony Alden, Vice Chair
Dr. Gerard Lawson
Milagros Collazo
Ashleigh Irving joined at 12:04 p.m. ET
Denise Hutchins joined at 12:22 p.m. ET

Committee Members Absent – Voting

Gloria Lindsey

Ex-Officio Members Present

Tony Onorato

Legal Counsel Present

Nahale Kalfas

CCC Staff Present

Greg Searls, Executive Director
Michelle Lynch, Program Coordinator

Members of the public were present.

Welcome & Call to Order

- Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. ET

Roll Call

- Director Searls called the roll. Committee members were present as noted above. A quorum was established with 4 of 7 voting committee members present.

Review and Adoption of the Agenda

- Chair Smith reviewed the agenda and asked for any discussion. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve the agenda.
- **Motion**: Vice Chair Alden made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Dr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and Adoption of the Minutes

- Chair Smith invited a review of the minutes from the previous meeting. No changes were proposed.
- **Motion**: M. Collazo made a motion to adopt the August meeting minutes as presented. Vice Chair Alden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Rules: Review Public Comment

- Legal Counsel Kalfas asked that the minutes reflect two general principles of compact rulemaking. First, out of respect for state sovereignty, compact commissions defer to member states on due process and disciplinary procedures, so the subjectivity in certain terms is intentional and consistent across compact commissions. Second, U.S. Supreme Court case law holds that no single state's laws or rules can unilaterally govern how a compact commission conducts its business, and each state's compact enactment provides that conflicting state law is superseded to the extent of the conflict.
- Legal Counsel Kalfas explained that untimely comments may be shared with the committee for consideration and are typically answered by Legal Counsel, in conjunction with the Chair, in a format similar to an FAQ.

Rule on Definitions (Chapter 2)

- The Committee reviewed a public comment recommending that references to CompactConnect be replaced with "the data system," consistent with changes made in other rules. Legal Counsel Kalfas noted this would not be considered a substantive change.
- **Motion**: Vice Chair Alden made a motion to approve the changes as noted. Dr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rule on Military ID Submission, Audit Process, and Revocation Procedure (Chapter 11)

- The Committee reviewed a public comment requesting the removal of continuing education and examination information from the definition of the data system, as some member states do not share that information. Director Searls noted that the language is included in the statutory definition established by the Compact and should not be removed.
- Legal Counsel Kalfas recommended developing a policy clarifying that the Commission interprets the definition to mean that member states retain examination and continuing education records in accordance with their respective records retention laws. Legal Counsel Kalfas will work with Director Searls to draft the policy.
- The committee accepted the change to "data system" terminology.

- **Motion**: M. Collazo made a motion to approve the rule with the changes as discussed. Vice Chair Alden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rule on Term of Office (Chapter 12)

- No changes were considered. No vote was required.

Rule on Mediation and Binding Dispute Resolution (Chapter 13)

- Ms. Ho suggested specifying "non-binding" mediation and adding language regarding agreement by all parties. Legal Counsel Kalfas found no legal concerns with the rule as written.
- Dr. Lawson noted that leaving "mediation" without a modifier preserves flexibility, with unresolved disputes moving to binding dispute resolution. The committee agreed to leave the language as written.
- The committee discussed clarifying Section C to read "or by submitting to arbitration," which Legal Counsel Kalfas noted would be non-substantive.

Rule on Joint Investigations (Chapter 14)

- The Committee reviewed a public comment recommending replacing "CompactConnect" with "Counseling Compact Commission," consistent with other rules.
- The Committee retained the term "supervision," noting its alignment with National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) sanctions, and discussed developing an FAQ to clarify.
- Legal Counsel Kalfas advised against including an exhaustive list of possible actions due to potential liability. The Committee agreed to leave the remaining language as written.
- The Committee discussed notification of adverse actions. Director Searls recommended that Section K reference reporting to the data system for clarity.
- **Motion**: Vice Chair Alden made a motion to approve the rule with the data system language change as discussed. A. Irving seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rule on Adverse Actions and Appeals (Chapter 15)

- Chair Smith noted that the commenter requested greater specificity in areas where the committee was intentionally general.
- Legal Counsel Kalfas recommended outlining the appeals subcommittee process in a policy, possibly for Full Commission approval, rather than in rule. Because the rule directly affects practitioners and was requested by the Compliance

Committee, she recommended that the Compliance Committee return the draft for review.
- Chair Smith noted that a meeting between the Rules and Compliance Committee Chairs is still being scheduled, and this rule will be added to that agenda.
- **Motion**: Dr. Lawson made a motion to table the rule. Vice Chair Alden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Bylaw Revision

- The committee briefly reviewed the draft revision, which expands who a delegate may designate to serve in their place.
- Director Searls noted that temporary representatives should be appointed by the state, and that states should name a delegate and an alternate at the same time.
- Legal Counsel Kalfas explained that any temporary representative must be appointed by the state's appropriate appointing authority through the attestation form to protect qualified immunity.
- Due to time constraints, Chair Smith asked committee members to review the draft and staff comments before the next meeting, with the goal of finalizing the revision in October.

Annual Committee Report

- Chair Smith submitted the annual committee report to Director Searls, who will distribute it for review. The committee will vote on the report at the October meeting before it goes to the Executive Committee.

Committee questions or comments

- No comments were received.

Public Comment

- No comments were received.

Adjourn

- Hearing no objections, Chair Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. ET