

**Advisory Opinion on Use of Unlicensed Persons in the Administration of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the state of Louisiana.**

The LLPVRC Board has recently taken notice of instances where private companies have been recruiting individuals to perform the duties of a Licensed Rehabilitation Counselor without proper licensure. Refer to La. R.S. 37:3441, et. seq. for Louisiana statutory requirements regarding the functions and licensing of vocational rehabilitation counselors. The Board recognizes the likelihood that these unlicensed individuals may be providing vocational rehabilitation services to industrially injured workers pursuant to RS 23 §1226, "Rehabilitation of Injured Employees" of the Louisiana Worker's Compensation Act which requires that such services **shall** be provided by a licensed professional vocational rehabilitation counselor. Moreover, even if not providing such services in the context of workers' compensation, Louisiana law requires that persons who perform vocational rehabilitation services (see La. R.S. 37:3443) are required to be licensed.

It is the consensus opinion of the LLPVRC Board that individuals who administer vocational rehabilitation services to disabled individuals who are not exempt under the licensing statute and who otherwise do not hold and maintain a proper license to practice vocational rehabilitation counseling and provide vocational rehabilitation services are in violations of applicable Louisiana statutes and regulations and are subject to the penalties provided for such violations. Licensed Rehabilitation Counselors and/or members of the general public are thereby encouraged to contact the LLPVRC Board of Examiners when violations of this nature become evident. Refer to the homepage of this website for contact information.