

Disaster Response Crisis Counselors' Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have questions about your Disaster Response Crisis Counselor (DRCC) certification? Below are the most common questions we receive. We hope you find the answers to your questions, however, if there's a question you can't seem to find the answer to, please send us an email.

How do I begin the process to become a DRCC?

Go to njdrcc.org and click on the "create an application" button.

What initial courses to I have to take?

For the DRCC program there is a 28 hour required course curriculum for certification which includes:

- National Incident Management System (NIMS 700)/Incident Command System (ICS 100) (taken online)
- Introduction to Disaster Mental Health and Crisis Counseling
- Cultural Diversity in the Provision of Disaster Mental Health
- Ethical Issues in Crisis Response
- Psychological First Aid.
- A total of 12 hours of re-training is required every two years in order to be recertified.

How do I complete the NIMS 700 and ICS 100 online courses?

- To satisfy the requirement for Incident Command System (ICS100 and 700 – 4 hours online) training please complete the online exam at <http://emilms.fema.gov/IS100B/index.htm>
- To satisfy the requirement for National Incident Management System (NIMS700) please complete the online exam at <http://emilms.fema.gov/IS700aNEW/index.htm>
- These links are available on the www.njdrcc.org site

How long is my DRCC certification in good standing?

Your DRCC certification is in good standing for 2 years.

Who do I contact if I have a question?

If you have a question regarding your DRCC Status or re-certification, please contact Tegan Perrotta at tperrotta@mhanj.org If you have a question regarding a specific training, Eventbrite or certificate from a training, please contact Annie Westerman at Annie.Westerman@dhs.state.nj.us

How do I recertify?

Once you receive your DRCC Certification, you are required to complete 12 hours of continuing education credits every two years in order to maintain the certification. To see all the approved trainings, please go to njdrcc.org and click on the Training Tab. After you have completed your re-certification trainings, please add them to the training section on your DRCC application. Once you have added them, please make sure you click on the red **Submit** button.

Is there a charge to be re-certified?

No, there is no charge to you for re-certification

How do I get an identification Card?

If you already have an identification card that is about to expire, your mental health administrator will contact you about 1 month after you have been re-certified to give you the new identification card. Please note that you must hand in your old card, in order to get a new one. If you don't have an identification card, you will be receiving an email with information on when someone is in your area taking photos for ID's. If you have any questions regarding ID cards, please contact Annie Westerman via email Annie.Westerman@dhs.state.nj.us

Do I have to be fingerprinted again?

No, to recertify you do not have to be re-fingerprinted, but you do have to complete a questionnaire before you can be re-certified. You will receive this questionnaire in the mail 6 months before you are due for re-certification.

What if I forget my username and/or password to my online account?

If you forget your username on for your account but remember your password, please contact Tegan Perrotta via email tperrotta@mhanj.org for your username. If you forget your password please go to njdrcc.org and click on Edit Your Application button about half way down the page. Then click on the red "reset password" link. It will ask you to enter the email address you used when first completing your application. (If you don't have access to the original email address, please contact Tegan Perrotta for assistance.)

After I complete the DRCC re-cert requirements, how long until I get my updated certificate and ID badge?

Please allow up to one month after your re-certification date to receive your new ID's and your new certificate.

Will I be reminded when I am up for re-certification?

Yes, you will get a letter and an email about 6 months before and then again at 3 months before you are due for re-certification explaining the re-certification process.

What trainings count towards re-certification?

New trainings are added to our training calendar often. Please go to njdrcc.org and click on our training catalog to see all offered trainings.

Where can I find the list of re-cert trainings?

Please go to njdrcc.org and click on the training calendar.

What if I took a training that I think is relevant to disaster for re-certification that is not an approved re-cert training?

If you think that there is a disaster specific training that should be approved for re-certification credits, please email the syllabus and certificate from that training to Tegan Perrotta at tperrotta@mhanj.org. Our training committee will review it during there next scheduled meeting.

What happens to my DRCC certification if I don't re-certify within my 2 year window?

If you don't re-certify within 2 years, your re-certification will become inactive.

Who can tell me my DRCC status?

Please contact Tegan Perrotta for DRCC Status information at tperrotta@mhanj.org

Who keeps track of my DRCC re-cert trainings?

You are responsible for tracking all trainings you have taken and updating your online DRCC application by visiting www.njrcc.org and clicking on the edit your application link.

The MHANJ reconciles training records for the purpose of randomly auditing DRCC's for required CEU courses; however, it is your responsibility to keep your DRCC information current.

I lost my certificate from the last training I attended, how can I get a new one?

If you lost a certificate please contact Annie Westerman via email Annie.Westerman@dhs.state.nj.us

Who is my mental Health Administer?

The County Mental Health Administrator is the local coordinator of the behavioral health response in his or her respective county. To see your Mental Health Administer and contact information please go to njdrcc.org and click on the Contact button.

For more FAQ's, please go to njdrcc.org and click on the FAQ tab.