



## **The ICA Certification Program – Milestones and Millstones**

### **ICA Certified CPTED Practitioner (Basic and Advanced) ICCP – B, ICCP – A**

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#### **Introduction**

At the November 2000 ICA Conference in Oakland, California, in the US., a paper was presented on the certification of CPTED practitioners. The paper resulted from the efforts of the Certification Working Group over more than a years online discussions, give-and-take, debate and haranguing. That group, made up of over 20 practitioners at all levels of expertise, came to the conclusion that certification was desirable and should be based on demonstrated competencies.

That year of work was not the beginning. Fifteen years, several conference sessions and numerous informal debates preceded the start of intense and dedicated research. Nor was the presentation in California the end of the process. There was not yet agreement on the certification process or even what competencies made up the core of CPTED. We may never see the end of that discussion and evolution.

Over the next two years more papers were presented, research conducted, input solicited and debates joined. The 2002 ICA Conference in Calgary marked a watershed for the certification of CPTED practitioners. During the general membership session the ICA CPTED Certified Practitioner or ICCP, was presented to the membership and offered up for a vote to formally adopt the program. With overwhelming support the ICCP program was approved by those in attendance.

#### **Competencies**

At the time there were twelve competencies for the advanced certification and nine competencies for the basic certification. Over time that has changed to remove Traffic Calming as a competency. Since traffic calming is a tactic with regional variations it was felt it should be removed. The remaining competencies are:

- Define Scope of the task
- Work as part of multidisciplinary team
- Undertake research in the nominated environment
- Read and interpret plans and drawings
- Read and interpret plans and drawings – *Advanced*
- Apply knowledge of regulatory processes
- Analyze and assess conditions
- Complete written report
- Assess CPTED options



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- Apply CPTED principles in a specialist setting – *Advanced*
- Prepare a Crime Prevention/CPTED Implementation Plan – *Advanced*

The original Working Group established that “Certification in the field on ones choosing is a way of indicating to yourself that you have arrived. You have achieved a level of expertise, recognized by those with which you choose to affiliate, that says ‘I am serious about this.’ Certification provides a raised bar to which those new to the field can strive.”

Crime prevention has several raised bars available to practitioners. The International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners (ISCPP) tests for certification for the CCPP. This is generally considered the basic level crime prevention. The American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) maintains the much raised bar with the Certified Protection Professional (CPP) program. Both tests include CPTED questions.

The Working Group recognized the need for certification of CPTED practitioners and that we avoid a test as the sole determination of certification. There are already many in crime prevention that claim CPTED expertise based on completion of a course, having sat through a seminar or passed a test. The Working Group decided that none of these options demonstrated an ability to effectively employ the CPTED process.

The program that has evolved may best be described as interrogative and contemplative. The applicant applies, provides background information, identifies a list of contacts, provides academic records and materials demonstrating completion of projects and processes that demonstrate knowledge and application of CPTED principles. The review committee examines the submittal and, if needed, questions the applicant for more information and/or proof. This process should take several months and involve a serious give-and-take between the lead reviewer and the applicant.

Once all the proofs are submitted and all competencies satisfied the applicant will be asked to submit test questions. This is an interesting phase on the certification process. It is expected that the applicant will demonstrate a deep understanding of CPTED and the CPTED process in the formulation of the questions themselves. Then, after the lead reviewer selects two questions to be answered, the applicant will provide essay answers to be presented to the review committee.

With the satisfactory completion of this last phase the applicant may be certified ICCP-B or ICCP-A. With a basic certification the practitioner may still submit additional proofs to be further certified as advanced. This may take up to the remainder of the full two years of the process covered by the registration fee without reapplying.

### **Conclusion**

So, that is the program, the process and the rationale. Where do we stand today? To date eight people have applied for certification. Of those applying six have successfully completed the process.

Jonathan Lusher – Advanced (Senior VP – Consulting Company)

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Sherry Carter – Advanced (Co-Owner – Consulting Company)

Stan Carter – Advanced (Co-Owner – Consulting Company)

Josh Brown – Advanced (Independent Consultant)

Steven McCully – Basic (Police Officer)

Paul Cozens – Advanced (Research Fellow)

Three people are in what can best be described as a “pre-application process.” They have submitted many questions, sample proofs and, in some cases, have gone back to take more classes and perform more projects to satisfy competencies in which they may be lacking.

Those in the application process include a CPTED reviewer for a police department, another police officer, an engineer and two more consultants.

The ICCP program will continue to grow, evolve, change and address the dynamic process that is CPTED. Each new applicant helps define the ICCP program and refine the certification process.