536-X-1-.01. Definition Of Terms., AL ADC 536-X-1-.01

(1) Marriage and Family Therapy in the State of Alabama is a professional practice which affects the public safety and welfare and requires appropriate regulation and control in the public interest. The practice of marriage and family therapy is the process of providing professional marriage and family therapy to individuals, couples, and families, either alone or in a group. The practice of marriage and family therapy utilizes established principles that recognize the interrelated nature of the individual problems and dysfunctions in family members in order to assess, and treat emotional, mental, and behavioral disorders. Marriage and family therapy includes, without being limited to, individual, group, couple, sexual, and family therapy, whether the services are offered directly to the general public or through organizations, either public or private, for a fee or other compensation. Marriage and family therapy is a specialized mode of treatment for the purpose of resolving emotional, mental, and behavioral disorders and modifying interpersonal and intrapersonal dysfunctions. Marriage and family therapists do not practice beyond their scope of training in the areas of assessing, diagnosing, and treating clients.

(2) Allied Mental Health Field operationalized as a degree in which at least one of the courses for that degree meets the marriage and family studies, marriage and family therapy, or human development Board course requirements.

(3) Board is the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy.

(4) COAMFTE Program is a master's degree, doctoral degree, or post-graduate degree clinical training program in marriage and family therapy that is recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) as either having accreditation or candidacy status. The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) is the parent organization of the COAMFTE.

(5) Direct Client Contact Hour is face-to-face contact with individuals, couples or families for a minimum of fifty (50) minutes.

(6) Group Supervision may consist of no more than six (6) supervisees, regardless of the number of supervisors. Group supervision provides the opportunity for the supervisees to interact with other supervisees and offers a different learning experience than that obtained from individual supervision.

(7) Individual Supervision is face-to-face contact between one (1) supervisor and up to two (2) supervisees.
(8) **MFT Work Experience** includes direct client contact hours and supervision hours, along with other professional tasks such as a preparation of the case notes, phone contacts, court appearances, administrative supervision, and other appropriate tasks involved in the professional practice of marriage and family therapy.

(9) **Raw Data Supervision** includes live supervision (supervision in which the supervisor observes the case live and has the opportunity to provide supervisory input during the session), audio or video supervision (supervision in which the supervisor reviews and provides feedback during the supervision session on audio or video tapes of the supervisee's clinical work), and supervision of co-therapy cases (supervision outside the session on cases in which the supervisor is a co-therapist).

(10) **Regional Educational Accrediting Body** is an institution accredited by one of the following: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and Western Association of Schools and Colleges. It signifies that the institution meets established standards for higher education.

(11) **Supervision** of marriage and family therapy is expected to have the following characteristics:

   (a) Face-to-face interaction with the supervisor, usually in periods of approximately one (1) hour each on at least a weekly basis for a period of two (2) years;

   (b) 25% of these face-to-face supervision hours may be conducted via electronic communications by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor, AAMFT Supervisor Candidate, ABEMFT Approved Supervisor, or ABEMFT Supervisor Candidate. Acceptable electronic communication is defined as communication that is simultaneously interactive both visually and orally.

   (c) Based on an integration of marriage and family therapy clinical and supervision constructs;

   (d) A contract for supervision is required for all MFT candidates who are under supervision for MFT licensure; The contract for supervision requires sufficient detail for review and approval by the Board. Specific topics to be addressed in the contract for supervision include, but are not limited to the following:

   1. The purpose and goals of the supervisee for this particular supervision relationship;

   2. The professional development of the supervisee, addressing issues related to the development of supervisee knowledge and skills; and

   3. The supervision protocol established to ensure ethical behavior by supervisees when treating vulnerable populations; (e.g. addictions, sex therapy, children, and inpatient treatment).
4. This contract must be signed by both the supervisor and supervisee. This plan must be submitted with LMFT Associate and/or LMFT designation application.

(e) Without approval of the Board, a supervisee may not have more than two (2) supervisors.

(f) The following characteristics are not acceptable as clinical supervision:

1. Peer supervision, i.e., supervision by a person of equivalent, rather than superior, qualifications, status and experience;

2. Supervision by current or former family members or any other person where the nature of the personal relationship compromises the professional relationship;

3. Administrative supervision (i.e., clinical practice performed under administration rather than clinical supervision of a director or executive director);

4. A primarily didactic process wherein techniques or procedures are taught in a group setting, classroom, workshop or seminar; and Consultation, staff development or orientation to a field program, or role playing of family interrelationships as a substitute for current clinical practice in an appropriate clinical

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


Current through the April 30, 2018 Alabama Administrative Monthly.
536-X-2-.01. Licensed Marriage And Family Therapist (LMFT).

An individual who has met Board requirements to practice marriage and family therapy.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


Current through the April 30, 2018 Alabama Administrative Monthly.

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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-2-.01, AL ADC 536-X-2-.01

End of Document
536-X-2-.02. Requirements For Licensure: Licensed Marriage... AL ADC 536-X-2-.02

Alabama Administrative Code Currentness
Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy
Chapter 536-X-2. Requirements for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-2-.02

536-X-2-.02. Requirements For Licensure: Licensed Marriage And Family Therapist (LMFT).

(1) Submission of a completed application on the forms prescribed by the Board (See 536-X-5 APPENDICES 2: FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS); and submission of applicable fees prescribed by the Board (See 536-X-5 APPENDICES 1: FEES).

(2) Evidence that the applicant is of good moral character and has not or is not engaged in any practice or conduct that would make the applicant ineligible to receive a license pursuant to the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Act;

(3) Completion of the education and internships requirements for an MFT Associate (See 536-X-4-.02: Requirements for designation: Marriage and Family Therapy Associate (MFT Associate));

(4) Passed the marriage and family therapy examination approved by the Board (See 536-X-4-.07 Guidelines for Examination Application Requirements);

(5) Completion of a minimum of two (2) years post-degree full time (30 or more clock hours per week) MFT work experience or the equivalent part time MFT work experience under the supervision of a Board Approved Supervisor;

(6)(a) Completion of two-hundred (200) hours of supervision, one-hundred (100) of which must be individual. Candidates may count up to one-hundred (100) supervision hours earned during the graduate program toward this requirement, when based on a ratio of one (1) supervision hour for every five (5) client contact hours completed concurrently. The remaining one hundred (100) hours of post degree supervision must include at least fifty (50) hours of individual supervision. Graduates from COAMFTE programs have met this requirement. Applicants from allied mental health professions or candidates not completing a Board approved graduate internship must complete concurrently the full supervision requirement post-degree. Programs that are not COAMFTE approved require board approval prior to beginning the internship.

(b) All out of state applicants will be reviewed on a case by case basis to ensure that the same standards are met.

(7) Completion of a minimum of one-thousand (1000) post-degree direct client hours completed concurrently with the required ratio of one (1) supervision hour to every ten (10) client contact hours; two hundred-fifty (250) of these direct contact hours must be with couples or families physically present in the therapy room.
It is the responsibility of the candidate and the supervisor to ensure that direct client contact hours and supervision hours are concurrent. This applies for hours toward the internship and post-degree requirements. Individuals who have graduated from a COAMFTE program have met this requirement for their internship, but must document their post-degree hours.

(9) In order for an LMFT license to be renewed the licensee must have completed the required Continuing Education or Experience Units during the previous twenty-four (24) months. (see 536-X-6 REQUIRED RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION EXPERIENCE); and submission of applicable fees for license renewal prescribed by the Board (See 536-X-5: APPENDICES 1: FEES).

**Author:** The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

[Code of Ala. 1975, §§ 34-17A-1 thru 34-17A-26.](#)

**HISTORY:**


Current through the April 30, 2018 Alabama Administrative Monthly.

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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-2-.02, AL ADC 536-X-2-.02
536-X-2-.03. Endorsement Of An Individual Who Is Licensed/Registered As An MFT Under The Laws Of Another State Or Territory Of The United States Or Of A Foreign Country.

(1) Submission of a completed application on the forms prescribed by the Board; (See 536-X-5 APPENDICES 2: FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS); and submission of applicable fees prescribed by the Board (See 536-X-5 APPENDICES 1: FEES).

(2) Evidence that the applicant is of good moral character and has not or is not engaged in any practice or conduct that would make the applicant ineligible to receive a license pursuant to the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Act;

(3) Evidence that the applicant is licensed or registered as a marriage and family therapist in another state which has requirements for licensure/registration that are equivalent to or exceed the requirements of the Board.

(4) Certification from the applicant's current licensure board indicating the time during which the applicant was licensed/registered; whether the file of the applicant contains any record of disciplinary actions taken or pending; and examination(s) taken and examination score(s) received.

(5) In order for an LMFT license to be renewed the licensee must have completed the required Continuing Education or Experience Units during the previous twenty-four (24) months. (see 536-X-6 REQUIRED RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION EXPERIENCE); and submission of applicable fees for license renewal prescribed by the Board (See 536-X-5: APPENDICES 1: FEES).

Note: No person shall be required to be licensed under this law who is not a resident of this state, but offers services in this state, provided:

1. Such services are performed for no more than five (5) days in any month and no more than fifteen (15) days in any calendar year; and

2. Such nonresident is licensed or certified to practice the services provided by a state or territory of the United States or by a foreign country or province.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

HISTORY:


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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-2-.03, AL ADC 536-X-2-.03

End of Document
Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy
Chapter 536-X-3. Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Designations

536-X-3-.01. Board Approved Marriage And Family Therapy Designations.

(1) Marriage and Family Therapy Intern (MFT Intern) - An individual who is enrolled in or graduated from a program that meets the Board course requirements and is practicing marriage and family therapy under Board approved supervision in a training institution, facility, or supervisory arrangement recognized and approved by the Board. An individual may remain an MFT Intern for a maximum of four (4) years.

(2) Marriage and Family Therapist Associate (MFT Associate) - An individual who has graduated from a program that meets the Board course requirements, has completed the required internship, and is practicing marriage and family therapy under a Board approved supervisory arrangement to complete the minimum two-year postgraduate supervision requirement, as approved by the Board.

(3) LMFT Supervisor Candidate - A Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) who is under Board approved supervision of supervision.

(4) LMFT Approved Supervisor - A Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) who has met Board requirements to provide MFT Supervision.

(5) LMFT Supervisor Mentor - A Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) Approved Supervisor who has met the experience requirements to provide supervision to LMFT Supervisor Candidate.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


Ed Note: Chapter 536-X-2 was renumbered to Chapter 536-X-3 as per certification filed July 10, 2006; effective August 14, 2006.
Alabama Administrative Code Currentness
Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy
Chapter 536-X-4. Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Designation Requirements

Ala. Admin. Code r. Ch. 536-X-4, Refs & Annos

Current through the April 30, 2018 Alabama Administrative Monthly.

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End of Document
536-X-4-.01. Requirements For Designation: Marriage And Family Therapy Intern (MFT Intern).

(1) Submission of a completed application on the forms prescribed by the board (See 536-X-5 APPENDICES 2: FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS); and submission of applicable fees prescribed by the Board (See 536-X-5 APPENDICES 1: FEES).

(2) Evidence that the applicant is of good moral character and has not or is not engaged in any practice or conduct that would make the applicant ineligible to receive a license pursuant to the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Act;

(3) Student or graduate of a regionally accredited educational institute in a masters or doctoral graduate training in marriage and family therapy (or an allied field with graduate level course work in marriage and family therapy) that meets the Board course requirements;

(4) Submission of a contract for supervision (see 536-X-1-.01 (11) : Definition of Terms: Supervision). Students in a COAMFTE program currently under program supervision have met this requirement.

(5) An MFT Intern designation must be renewed every two (2) years if applicable. In order to renew the Intern must have completed the required Continuing Education Units (see 536-X-6 Required Relevant Professional and Continuing Education Experience); and submission of applicable fees for license renewal prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 1: Fees).

(6) It is the responsibility of the candidate and the supervisor to ensure that direct client contact hours and supervision hours are concurrent. This applies for hours toward the internship and post-degree requirements. Individuals who have graduated from a COAMFTE program have met this requirement for their internship, but must document their post-degree hours.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:

Current through the April 30, 2018 Alabama Administrative Monthly.

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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-4-.01, AL ADC 536-X-4-.01
536-X-.02. Requirements For Designation: Licensed Marriage And Family Therapist (LMFT).

(1) Submission of a completed application on the forms prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 2: FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS); and submission of applicable fees for application and license prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 1: FEES).

(2) Evidence that the applicant is of good moral character and has not and is not engaged in any practice or conduct that would make the applicant ineligible to receive a designation pursuant to the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Act;

(3) Graduation from a regionally accredited educational institute with a masters or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy (or in an allied field with graduate level course work in marriage and family therapy) that meets the Board course requirements. (see 536-X-5: BOARD COURSE REQUIREMENTS). Individuals who have graduated from a COAMFTE program have met this requirement.

(4) Completion of an internship either during the qualifying degree and/or as a post degree experience consisting of the following:

(a) minimum of 12 months of internship;

(b) minimum of 100 supervision hours based on the ratio of one (1) supervision hour for every five (5) direct client contact hours completed concurrently; fifty (50) of these hours must be individual supervision. Group supervision is encouraged. The supervision must be provided by a Board Approved Supervisor;

(c) minimum of five hundred (500) direct client contact hours obtained concurrently with the required supervision; two hundred fifty (250) of these direct client contact hours must be with couples or families physically present in the therapy room;

(d) It is the responsibility of the candidate and the supervisor to ensure that direct client contact hours and supervision hours are concurrent. This applies for hours toward the internship and post-degree requirements. Individuals who have graduated from a COAMFTE program have met this requirement for their internship, but must document their post-degree hours.

(e) Individuals who have graduated from a COAMFTE program have met requirements a-d.
(5) Submission of a contract for supervision that must be approved by the Board (see 536-X-1-.01 (11) : Definition of Terms: Supervision).

(6) In order for a MFT Associate to be renewed, the Associate must have completed the required Continuing Education Units during the previous twenty-four (24) months. (see 536-X-6 REQUIRED RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION EXPERIENCE); and submission of applicable fees for license renewal prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5: APPENDICES 1: FEES).

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


Current through the April 30, 2018 Alabama Administrative Monthly.
536-X-3-.02. Requirements For Designation: Marriage And Family Therapy Associate (MFT Associate).

Author: Connie J. Salts, Ph.D.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


Chapter 536-X-3 was renumbered to Chapter 536-X-4 as per certification filed July 10, 2006; effective August 14, 2006.

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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-3-.02, AL ADC 536-X-3-.02
536-X-4-.03. Requirements For Designation: LMFT Supervisor Candidate.

(1) Is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist;

(2) Submission, of a completed application on the forms prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 2: FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS); and submission of applicable fees for application and license prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 1: FEES).

(3) Submission of a contract for supervision with a supervisor mentor:

   (a) A plan for the completion of supervision of supervision by a Board approved LMFT Supervisor Mentor; and

   (b) A plan for completion of an AAMFT approved graduate course in supervision or the equivalent. The course must contain a minimum of thirty (30) contact hours.

Note: LMFT Supervisor Candidate contracts are valid for a maximum of three (3) years.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


Current through the April 30, 2018 Alabama Administrative Monthly.
536-X-4-.04. Requirements For Designation: LMFT Approved Supervisor, AL ADC 536-X-4-.04

(1) Is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist;

(2) Submission of a completed application on the forms prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 2: FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS); and submission of applicable fees for application and license prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 1: FEES).

(3) Completion of a minimum of four (4) years post-degree full time (30 or more clock hours per week) MFT work experience or the equivalent part time work experience.

(4) Completion of a graduate course in supervision with a minimum of thirty (30) contact hours or the equivalent;

(5) The supervisor candidate must provide a minimum of one hundred-eighty (180) hours of clinical supervision to MFTs and/or MFT trainees during a period of not less than two years. During this time, the candidate must actively supervise at least two supervisees for at least nine (9) months each.

(6) Completion of thirty-six (36) hours of supervision of supervision from a Board approved LMFT Supervisor Mentor. Supervision of Supervision should continue throughout the entire period of one's candidacy, even if the thirty-six (36) hours have been completed. If the training period extends beyond two years, at least eighteen (18) hours of Supervision of Supervision must be obtained in the final year of candidacy.

(7) The Supervisor Candidate is responsible for logging monthly supervisee direct client contact hours, supervision hours and type of supervision for each supervisee, and supervision of supervision hours. These monthly logs will be submitted with the Candidate's final application.

OR

(8) Is an AAMFT Approved Supervisor.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

HISTORY:


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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-4-.04, AL ADC 536-X-4-.04
536-X-4-.05. Requirements For Designation: LMFT Supervisor Mentor.

(1) LMFT Approved Supervisor who has provided a minimum of one hundred (100) hours of supervision beyond that required to become an LMFT Approved Supervisor.

(2) Submission of a completed application on the forms prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 2: FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS); and submission of applicable fees for application and license prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 1: FEES).

Note: AAMFT Approved Supervisors and AAMFT Supervisor Candidate are also Board approved supervisors.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-4-.05, AL ADC 536-X-4-.05
536-X-4-.06. Guidelines For: Case By Case Supervision.

Alabama Administrative Code Currentness
Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy
Chapter 536-X-4. Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Designation Requirements (Refs & Annos)

536-X-4-.06. Guidelines For: Case By Case Supervision.

(1) When supervision by a LMFT Supervisor, LMFT Supervisor Candidate or LMFT Supervisor Mentor is not available, the Board will approve supervision on a case by case basis using the following guidelines:

(a) For applications in which the approval of supervision is considered on a case by case basis by the Board, each supervisor's education, clinical, and supervisory experience in marriage and family therapy will be considered when assessing the total education and clinical experience of the applicant.

(b) Consideration of Case by Case Approved Supervision will be limited to cases in which the availability of Board Approved Supervisors would result in a substantial hardship such as there being no Approved Supervisors or Supervisor Candidates within a fifty (50) mile radius. If an appropriate ABEMFT LMFT Approved Supervisor, ABEMFT LMFT Supervisor Candidate, AAMFT Approved Supervisor or AAMFT Supervisor Candidate is unavailable, the Board can allow an ABEMFT License MFT with consideration experience to act as the supervisor.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-4-.06, AL ADC 536-X-4-.06
The following are necessary requirements in order to take the Board approved marriage and family therapy examination:

(1) Submission of a completed application on the forms prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 2: FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS); and submission of applicable fees for application and license prescribed by the Board (see 536-X-5 APPENDICES 1: FEES).

(a) If an MFT Associate or has met all requirements for becoming an MFT Associate (see 536-X-4-.02: Requirements for designation: Marriage and Family Therapy Associate (MFT Associate).

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


Current through the April 30, 2018 Alabama Administrative Monthly.
Alabama Administrative Code Currentness
Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy
Chapter 536-X-5. Board Course Requirements

Ala. Admin. Code r. Ch. 536-X-5, Refs & Annos

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Graduate coursework will consist of the six areas deemed essential educational training for the practice of marriage and family therapy. This coursework will embrace a family systems perspective of human and family development and of treatment of individuals, couples, and families, either alone or in a group. This coursework will address the practice of marriage and family therapy through utilization of established principles that recognize the interrelated nature of the individual problems and dysfunctions in family members in order to assess and treat emotional, mental, and behavioral disorders.

Course equivalents: one (1) course = three (3) semester credits or four (4) quarter credits from a recognized educational institution; or forty-five (45) didactic contact hours (lecture hours)

(1) **Marriage and Family Studies** (two (2) courses, minimum). Courses in this area should present a fundamental introduction to systems theory. The student should learn to think in systems terms across a wide variety of family and other social structures and a diverse range of presenting issues (i.e., gender, culture, substance abuse). Topic areas include: systems theory, family development, subsystems, blended families, gender issues in families, cultural issues in families, etc. All courses in this area must have a major focus from a systems theory orientation. Survey or overview courses in which systems is one of several theories covered do not qualify for this area. Courses in which systems theory is the major focus and other theories are studies in relation to systems theory are acceptable.

(2) **Marriage and Family Therapy** (three (3) courses, minimum). Courses in this area should have a major focus on advanced family systems theories and systemic therapeutic interventions. This area is intended to provide a substantive understanding of the major theories of systems change and the applied practices evolving from each theoretical orientation. Major theoretical approaches might include: strategic, structural, object relations family therapy, behavioral family therapy, communications family therapy, intergenerational family therapy, and systemic sex therapy. Survey or overview courses in which family therapy is one of several types of theories covered do not qualify for this area.

(3) **Human Development** (two (2) courses, minimum). Courses in this area should provide knowledge of individual personality development and its normal and abnormal manifestations. The student should have relevant coursework in human development across the life span which includes special issues that effect an individual's development (i.e., culture, gender, and human sexuality). The material should be integrated with systems concepts. Topic areas may include human development, child/adolescent development, psychopathology, personality, theory, human sexuality, etc. Test and measurements courses do not qualify for this area.

(4) **Professional Ethics** (one (1) course, minimum). Courses in this area are intended to contribute to the professional development of the therapist. Areas of study should include the therapist's legal responsibilities and liabilities,
professional issues and ethics as a marriage and family therapist, professional socialization, and the role of the
professional organization, licensure or certification legislation, independent practice and interprofessional cooperation.
Religious ethics courses and moral theology courses do not qualify for this area.

(5) Research (one (1) course, minimum). Courses in this area should assist in understanding and performing research.
Topic areas may include: research methodology, quantitative methods, and statistics. Individual personality, test and
measurement and library research courses do not qualify for this area.

(6) Mental Health Diagnosis (one (1) course, minimum). The course in this area should assist in understanding and
treating psychological diagnosis related to the International Classification of Diseases and/or the Diagnostic and
Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Topic areas may include: major mental disorders and learning disorders,
personality disorders, intellectual disabilities, acute medical conditions, addictions, sexual disorders, and psycho-
developmental and environmental factors contributing to disorders. This course will be required for all licensees
beginning January 1, 2013.

Note: Graduates of programs, which at the time of the applicant's graduation were COAMFTE programs, are deemed
to have met the Board course requirements.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:

New Rule: Filed November 15, 2000; effective December 20, 2000. Amended (Rule Number only): Filed July 10, 2006;

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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-5-.01, AL ADC 536-X-5-.01
APPENDICES 1

FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$300</td>
<td>License Fee for LMFT. License is valid until December 31st of the year following original licensing year. Upon receipt of notice of approval for application for licensure, the applicant shall within sixty (60) days submit the license fee. Failure to submit such license fee within the above prescribed time shall be deemed sufficient reason for cancellation of said application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300</td>
<td>License Renewal Fee for LMFT if paid by December 31 expiration date. On or before October 1 of the renewal period; an application for renewal will be forwarded to the licensee. Renewed License is valid for two (2) years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$125</td>
<td>Fine for late renewal of LMFT license if renewed by March 1 of renewal period. If not renewed by March 1 of the renewal period, the license is considered expired.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150</td>
<td>One time fee required of all first time applicants for Board review of credentials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25</td>
<td>Renewal fee for Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25</td>
<td>Transfer fee for Intern to Associate designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200</td>
<td>Renewal fee for Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>$200</td>
<td>Application and approval fee for LMFT Supervisor Candidate status (valid for three (3) years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Application and approval fee for LMFT Approved Supervisor status (valid until renewal date for LMFT license)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Renewal fee for LMFT Approved Supervisor status (valid for two (2) years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Application and approval fee for LMFT Approved Supervisor Mentor (valid until renewal date for LMFT license).</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Renewal fee for LMFT Approved Supervisor Mentor (valid for two (2) years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Certificate Replacement Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25</td>
<td>License Verification Fee [License Roster available at no cost on web-site]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Mailing Labels for Licensees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

[Code of Ala. 1975, §§ 34-17A-1 thru 34-17A-26.]

HISTORY:


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APPENDICES 2

FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Application for Marriage and Family Therapy Intern
Application for Marriage and Family Therapy Intern Renewal
Application for Marriage and Family Therapy Associate
Application for Marriage and Family Therapy Associate Renewal
Application for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Application for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Renewal
Application for Endorsement for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Application for Supervisor in Training
Application for Approved Supervisor
Application for Approved Supervisor Renewal
Application for Approved Supervisor of Supervision
Application for Approved Supervisor of Supervision Renewal
Application for Permission to take the Marriage and Family Therapy Examination
Application for Inactive Status of License
Application for Restoration of License
Application for Case by Case Approved Supervision
CEU Reporting Form

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


Current through the April 30, 2018 Alabama Administrative Monthly.
Alabama Administrative Code Currentness
Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy
Chapter 536-X-6. Required Relevant Professional and Continuing Education Experience

Ala. Admin. Code r. Ch. 536-X-6, Refs & Annos

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536-X-6-.01. Required Relevant Professional And Continuing Education Experience

(1) In order for an Intern designation to be renewed, the intern must have completed a minimum of ten (10) contact hours of acceptable Continuing Education or Experience Units during the previous twenty-four months. A minimum of three (3) of these hours must be clinical MFT workshops, a minimum of three (3) of these hours must be in the area of diagnosis and treatment, and a minimum of three (3) of these hours must be in the area of professional issues and ethics.

(2) In order for an Associate License to be renewed, the Associate must have completed a minimum of twenty (20) contact hours of acceptable Continuing Education or Experience Units during the previous twenty-four months. A minimum of five (5) of these hours must be clinical MFT workshops, a minimum of three (3) of these hours must be in the area of diagnosis and treatment, and a minimum of three (3) of these hours must be in the area of professional issues and ethics.

(3) In order for an LMFT license to be renewed, the licensee must have completed a minimum of forty (40) contact hours of acceptable Continuing Education or Experience Units during the previous twenty-four (24) months. A minimum of ten (10) of these hours must be clinical MFT workshops, a minimum of six (6) of these hours must be in the area of diagnosis and treatment, and a minimum of six (6) of these hours must be in the area of professional issues and ethics. LMFT supervisors must have completed a minimum of five (5) hours of continuing education in the content area of supervision.

(4) Acceptable CEU’s include:

(a) National, state or local MFT association training and continuing education activities;

(b) Graduate courses in MFT or cross disciplinary course (one (1) graduate semester = fifteen (15) hours, one (1) graduate quarter = ten (10) hours);

1. NBCC approved courses and continuing education activities sponsored by allied mental health professional associations or agencies;

2. Supervision by an Approved MFT Supervisor under a board approved contract (not more than ten (10) hours);
3. Independent study activities such as: teaching graduate courses in MFT; presenter of MFT material in a recognized professional forum (first time presented); supervising a person for MFT licensure under a Board approved contract; service rendered on professional MFT boards or committees, editing or writing professional books or articles for publication. No more than ten (10) hours of continuing education shall be in independent study.

4. AAMFT, NBCC, or ALAMFT pre-approved distance learning courses that may include web page lectures; class discussions via internet bulletin boards; student interaction; and student to student interactive online communication through electronic mail, television, or video. Distance learning is a convenient mode for Board approved, interactive on-line/video coursework that is designed to provide an alternative to conventional continuing education for MFT members who demonstrate physical impairment, conflicting work schedule, or hardship. Distance learning requires no or limited physical attendance and does not replace face-to-face clinical supervision. No more than twenty (20) hours of continuing education shall be in distance learning.

(5) Documentation of completion will include a written statement of all CEU course information including the name of the sponsoring organization, location of seminar, title/brief description, principal instructor, dates, and number of hours claimed. The Board will audit a number of randomly selected licensees to assure that the continuing education requirements have been met before the license is renewed. The Board may request verification of credits submitted, including information regarding content certification and attendance. The licensee shall maintain and make available upon request the documentation required by this rule for a period of two (2) years. Failure to substantiate credits submitted or to submit documentation of sufficient continuing education credits will result in refusal by the Board to renew a license.

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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-6-.01, AL ADC 536-X-6-.01
536-X-7-.01. Grounds For Discipline And Ethical Standards.

The Board may deny, revoke, or suspend a license granted pursuant to the Marriage and Family Therapy Act on any of the following grounds:

(1) Conviction of a crime which the Board determines to be of a nature as to render the person convicted unfit to practice marriage and family therapy. The Board shall compile, maintain, and publish a list of the crimes.

(2) Violation of ethical standards of a nature as to render the person found by the board to be unfit to practice marriage and family therapy. The Board shall publish and maintain the ethical standards. Either as an alternative to, or as an additional disciplinary action, the Board may levy an administrative fine of up to five hundred dollars ($500) for an ethical violation.

(3) Fraud or misrepresentation in obtaining a license.

(4) Other just and sufficient cause which renders a person unfit to practice marriage and family therapy, such as, but not limited to the following:

   (a) Violations of rules, regulations, and standards set forth by the Board.

   (b) Violations of the ethical standards for marriage and family therapists.

   (c) Professional incompetency.

   (d) Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of the profession or engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public. Proof of actual injury need not be established.

   (e) Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs.

   (f) Conviction of a felony related to the profession or occupation of the licensee or the conviction of any felony that would affect the licensee's ability to practice within a profession. A copy of the record of conviction or plea of guilty shall be conclusive evidence.
(g) Fraud in representations as to skill or ability.

(h) Use of untruthful or improbable statements in advertisements.

(i) Willful or repeated violations of the provisions of the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Act and the Rules and Regulations of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy.

(j) Personal disqualifications:

1. Mental or physical inability reasonably related to and adversely affecting the licensee's ability to practice in a safe and competent manner.

2. Involuntary commitment for treatment of mental illness, drug addiction or alcoholism.

(k) Holding oneself out as a licensee when the license has expired, been suspended or revoked or no license has been granted.

(l) Revocation, suspension, or other disciplinary action taken by a mental health licensing authority of any state, territory, or country; or failure by the licensee to report in writing to the Board a revocation, suspension, or other disciplinary action taken by a mental health licensing authority of any state, territory, or county.

(m) Negligence by the licensee in the practice of the profession, which is a failure to exercise due care including negligent delegation to or supervision of employees or other individuals, whether or not injury results; or any conduct, practice or conditions which impair the ability to safely and skillfully practice the profession.

(n) Prohibited acts consisting of the following:

1. Permitting another person to use the license for any purpose.

2. Practice outside the scope of the license.

3. Obtaining, possession, or attempting to obtain or possess a controlled substance without lawful authority; or selling, prescribing, giving away, or administering controlled substances.

4. Verbally or physically abusing clients.

5. Any sexual intimidation or sexual relationship between a licensee and a client.
(o) Unethical business practices, consisting of any of the following:

1. False or misleading advertising.

2. Betrayal of a professional confidence.

3. Falsifying client's records.

(p) Failure to report to the Board a change of name or address within sixty (60) days after it occurs.

(q) Failure to comply with a subpoena issued by the Board, or to otherwise fail to cooperate with an investigation conducted by the Board.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-7-.01, AL ADC 536-X-7-.01
536-X-8-.01. Responsibility To Clients.

Marriage and family therapists advance the welfare of families and individuals. They respect the rights of those persons seeking their assistance, and make reasonable efforts to ensure that their services are used appropriately.

(1) Marriage and family therapists provide professional assistance to persons without discrimination on the basis of race, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, gender, health status, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.

(2) Marriage and family therapists obtain appropriate informed consent to therapy or related procedures as early as feasible in the therapeutic relationship, and use language that is reasonably understandable to clients. The content of informed consent may vary depending upon the client and treatment plan; however, informed consent generally necessitates that the client:

(a) has the capacity to consent;

(b) has been adequately informed of significant information concerning treatment processes and procedures;

(c) has been adequately informed of potential risks and benefits of treatments for which generally recognized standards do not yet exist;

(d) has freely and without undue influence expressed consent; and

(e) has provided consent that is appropriately documented. When persons, due to age or mental status, are legally incapable of giving informed consent, marriage and family therapists obtain informed permission from a legally authorized person, if such substitute consent is legally permissible.

(3) Marriage and family therapists are aware of their influential positions with respect to clients, and they avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons. Therapists, recognize within communities there is potential for multiple relationships to exist with a client. Marriage and family therapists accept that multiple relationships add to the complexity of the professional relationship and work to ensure clarity of professional judgment and avoid exploitation of the client.

(4) Sexual intimacy with current clients is prohibited.
(5) Sexual intimacy with a current client's immediate family member is prohibited. An immediate family member is defined as a mother, father, son, daughter, step-mother, step-father, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, step-brother, step-sister, grandmother, grandfather, first cousin, niece, nephew and current and potential spouses or cohabitating partners of any of these immediate family relationships.

(6) Sexual intimacy with former clients and relatives of a former client is likely to be harmful and is therefore prohibited for five years following the termination of therapy of last professional contact. Should therapists engage in sexual intimacy with former clients or immediate family members of a former client following five years after termination or last professional contact, the burden shifts to the therapist to demonstrate that there has been no exploitation or injury to the former client.

(7) Marriage and family therapists shall not provide clinical services to an individual with whom the marriage and family therapist has had a prior sexual relationship.

(8) Marriage and family therapists shall not sexually harass clients. Sexual harassment includes sexual solicitation or requests for sexual favors.

(9) Marriage and family therapists comply with applicable laws regarding the reporting of alleged unethical conduct.

(10) Marriage and family therapists do not use their professional relationships with clients to further their own interests.

(11) Marriage and family therapists respect the rights of clients to make decisions and help them to understand the consequences of these decisions. Therapists clearly advise the clients that they have the responsibility to make decisions regarding relationships such as cohabitation, marriage, divorce, separation, reconciliation, custody, and visitation.

(12) Marriage and family therapists continue therapeutic relationships only so long as it is reasonably clear that clients are benefiting from the relationship.

(13) Marriage and family therapists assist persons in obtaining other therapeutic services if the therapist is unable or unwilling, for appropriate reasons, to provide professional help.

(14) Marriage and family therapists do not abandon or neglect clients in treatment without making reasonable arrangements for the continuation of such treatment.

(15) Marriage and family therapists obtain written informed consent from clients before videotaping, audio recording, or permitting third-party observation.

(16) Marriage and family therapists, upon agreeing to provide services to a person or entity at the request of a third party, clarify, to the extent feasible and at the outset of the service, the nature of the relationship with each party and the limits of confidentiality.
Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-8-.01, AL ADC 536-X-8-.01
Marriage and family therapists have unique confidentiality concerns because the client in a therapeutic relationship may be more than one person. Therapists respect and guard the confidences of each individual client.

(1) Marriage and family therapists disclose to clients and other interested parties, as early as feasible in their professional contacts, the nature of confidentiality and possible limitations of the clients' right to confidentiality. Therapists review with clients the circumstances where confidential information may be requested and where disclosure of confidential information may be legally required. Circumstances may necessitate repeated disclosures.

(2) Marriage and family therapists do not disclose client confidences except by written authorization or waiver, or where mandated or permitted by law. Verbal authorization will not be sufficient except in emergency situations, unless prohibited by law. When providing couple, family or group treatment, the therapist does not disclose information outside the treatment context without a written authorization from each individual competent to execute a waiver. In the context of couple, family or group treatment, the therapist may not reveal any individual's confidences to others in the client unit without the prior written permission of that individual.

(3) Marriage and family therapists use client and/or clinical materials in teaching, writing, consulting, research, and public presentations only if a written waiver has been obtained in accordance with Subprinciple 2.2, or when appropriate steps have been taken to protect client identity and confidentiality.

(4) Marriage and family therapists store, safeguard, and dispose of client records in ways that maintain confidentiality and in accord with applicable laws and professional standards.

(5) Subsequent to the therapist moving from the area, closing the practice, or upon the death of the therapist, a marriage and family therapist arranges for the storage, transfer, or disposal of client records in ways that maintain confidentiality and safeguard the welfare of clients.

(6) Marriage and family therapists, when consulting with colleagues or referral sources, do not share confidential information that could reasonably lead to the identification of a client, research participant, or other person with whom they have a confidential relationship unless they have obtained the prior written consent of the client, research participant, or other person with whom they have a confidential relationship. Information may be shared only to the extent necessary to achieve the purposes of the consultation.
Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-8-.02, AL ADC 536-X-8-.02

End of Document
Marriage and family therapists maintain high standards of professional competence and integrity.

(1) Marriage and family therapists pursue knowledge of new developments and maintain competence in marriage and family therapy through education, training, or supervised experience.

(2) Marriage and family therapists maintain adequate knowledge of and adhere to applicable laws, ethics, and professional standards.

(3) Marriage and family therapists seek appropriate professional assistance for their personal problems or conflicts that may impair work performance or clinical judgment.

(4) Marriage and family therapists do not provide services that create a conflict of interest that may impair work performance or clinical judgment.

(5) Marriage and family therapists, as presenters, teachers, supervisors, consultants and researchers, are dedicated to high standards of scholarship, present accurate information, and disclose potential conflicts of interest.

(6) Marriage and family therapists maintain accurate and adequate clinical and financial records.

(7) While developing new skills in specialty areas, marriage and family therapists take steps to ensure the competence of their work and to protect clients from possible harm. Marriage and family therapists practice in specialty areas new to them only after appropriate education, training, or supervised experience.

(8) Marriage and family therapists do not engage in sexual or other forms of harassment of clients, students, trainees, supervisees, employees, colleagues, or research subjects.

(9) Marriage and family therapists do not engage in the exploitation of clients, students, trainees, supervisees, employees, colleagues, or research subjects.

(10) Marriage and family therapists do not give to or receive from clients
(a) gifts of substantial value or

(b) gifts that impair the integrity or efficacy of the therapeutic relationship.

(11) Marriage and family therapists do not diagnose, treat, or advise on problems outside the recognized boundaries of their competencies.

(12) Marriage and family therapists make efforts to prevent the distortion or misuse of their clinical and research findings.

(13) Marriage and family therapists, because of their ability to influence and alter the lives of others, exercise special care when making public their professional recommendations and opinions through testimony or other public statements.

(14) To avoid a conflict of interests, marriage and family therapists who treat minors or adults involved in custody or visitation actions may not also perform forensic evaluations for custody, residence, or visitation of the minor. The marriage and family therapist who treats the minor may provide the court or mental health professional performing the evaluation with information about the minor from the marriage and family therapist's perspective as a treating marriage and family therapist, so long as the marriage and family therapist does not violate confidentiality.

(15) Marriage and family therapists are in violation of this Code and subject to termination of membership or other appropriate action if they:

(a) are convicted of any felony;

(b) are convicted of a misdemeanor related to their qualifications or functions;

(c) engage in conduct which could lead to conviction of a felony, or a misdemeanor related to their qualifications or functions;

(d) are expelled from or disciplined by other professional organizations;

(e) have their licenses or certificates suspended or revoked or are otherwise disciplined by regulatory bodies;

(f) continue to practice marriage and family therapy while no longer competent to do so because they are impaired by physical or mental causes or the abuse of alcohol or other substances; or

(g) fail to cooperate with the Board at any point from the inception of an ethical complaint through the completion of all proceedings regarding that complaint.
Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-8-.03, AL ADC 536-X-8-.03

End of Document
536-X-8-.04. Responsibility To Students And Supervisees,

Marriage and family therapists do not exploit the trust and dependency of students and supervisees.

(1) Marriage and family therapists are aware of their influential positions with respect to students and supervisees, and they avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons. Therapists recognize that potential for multiple relationships with students exist. Marriage and family therapists accept that multiple relationships add to the complexity of the professional relationship and work to ensure clarity of professional judgment and avoid exploitation of the student.

(2) Marriage and family therapists do not provide therapy to current students or supervisees.

(3) Marriage and family therapists do not engage in sexual intimacy with undergraduate or graduate students or supervisees during the evaluative or training relationship between the therapist and student or supervisee. Should a supervisor engage in sexual activity with a former student or supervisee, the burden of proof shifts to the supervisor to demonstrate that there has been no exploitation or injury to the student or supervisee.

(4) The marriage and family therapist shall not sexually harass students or supervisees. Sexual harassment includes sexual solicitation or requests for sexual favors.

(5) Marriage and family therapists do not permit students or supervisees to perform or to hold themselves out as competent to perform professional services beyond their training, level of experience, and competence.

(6) Marriage and family therapists take reasonable measures to ensure that services provided by supervisees are professional.

(7) Marriage and family therapists avoid accepting as supervisees or students those individuals with whom a prior or existing relationship could compromise the therapist's objectivity. When such situations cannot be avoided, therapists take appropriate precautions to maintain objectivity. Examples of such relationships include, but are not limited to, those individuals with whom the therapist has a current or prior sexual, close personal, immediate familial, or therapeutic relationship.

(8) Marriage and family therapists do not disclose supervisee confidences except by written authorization or waiver, or when mandated or permitted by law. In educational or training settings where there are multiple supervisors, disclosures
are permitted only to other professional colleagues, administrators, or employers who share responsibility for training of the supervisee. Verbal authorization will not be sufficient except in emergency situations, unless prohibited by law.

**Author:** The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

[Code of Ala. 1975, §§ 34-17A-1 thru 34-17A-26.]

**HISTORY:**

**New Rule:** Filed December 22, 2009; effective January 26, 2010. **Amended:** Filed February 8, 2012; effective March 14, 2012.

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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-8-.04, AL ADC 536-X-8-.04
536-X-.05. Responsibility To Research Participants.

Investigators respect the dignity and protect the welfare of research participants, and are aware of applicable laws and regulations and professional standards governing the conduct of research.

(1) Investigators are responsible for making careful examinations of ethical acceptability in planning studies. To the extent that services to research participants may be compromised by participation in research, investigators seek the ethical advice of qualified professionals not directly involved in the investigation and observe safeguards to protect the rights of research participants.

(2) Investigators requesting participant involvement in research inform participants of the aspects of the research that might reasonably be expected to influence willingness to participate. Investigators are especially sensitive to the possibility of diminished consent when participants are also receiving clinical services, or have impairments which limit understanding and/or communication, or when participants are children.

(3) Investigators respect each participant's freedom to decline participation in or to withdraw from a research study at any time. This obligation requires special thought and consideration when investigators or other members of the research team are in positions of authority or influence over participants. Marriage and family therapists, therefore, make every effort to avoid multiple relationships with research participants that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation.

(4) Information obtained about a research participant during the course of an investigation is confidential unless there is a waiver previously obtained in writing. When the possibility exists that others, including family members, may obtain access to such information, this possibility, together with the plan for protecting confidentiality, is explained as part of the procedure for obtaining informed consent.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:

Marriage and family therapists respect the rights and responsibilities of professional colleagues and participate in activities that advance the goals of the profession.

(1) Marriage and family therapists remain accountable to the standards of the profession when acting as members or employees of organizations. If the mandates of an organization with which a marriage and family therapist is affiliated, through employment, contract or otherwise, conflict with the AAMFT Code of Ethics, marriage and family therapists make known to the organization their commitment to the AAMFT Code of Ethics and attempt to resolve the conflict in a way that allows the fullest adherence to the Code of Ethics.

(2) Marriage and family therapists assign publication credit to those who have contributed to a publication in proportion to their contributions and in accordance with customary professional publication practices.

(3) Marriage and family therapists do not accept or require authorship credit for a publication based on research from a student's program, unless the therapist made a contribution (significant participation in the design of research, collection of data, data analysis, and writing of findings in the article).

(4) Marriage and family therapists who are the authors of books or other materials that are published or distributed do not plagiarize or fail to cite persons to whom credit for original ideas or work is due.

(5) Marriage and family therapists who are the authors of books or other materials published or distributed by an organization take reasonable precautions to ensure that the organization promotes and advertises the materials accurately and factually.

(6) Marriage and family therapists participate in activities that contribute to a better community and society, including devoting a portion of their professional activity to services for which there is little or no financial return.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-8-.06, AL ADC 536-X-8-.06
Marriage and family therapists make financial arrangements with clients, third-party payers, and supervisees that are reasonably understandable and conform to accepted professional practices.

(1) Marriage and family therapists do not offer or accept kickbacks, rebates, bonuses, or other remuneration for referrals; fee-for-service arrangements are not prohibited.

(2) Prior to entering into the therapeutic or supervisory relationship, marriage and family therapists clearly disclose and explain to clients and supervisees:

   (a) all financial arrangements and fees related to professional services, including charges for canceled or missed appointments;

   (b) the use of collection agencies or legal measures for nonpayment; and

   (c) the procedure for obtaining payment from the client, to the extent allowed by law, if payment is denied by the third-party payer. Once services have begun, therapists provide reasonable notice of any changes in fees or other charges.

(3) Marriage and family therapists give reasonable notice to clients with unpaid balances of their intent to seek collection by agency or legal recourse. When such action is taken, therapists will not disclose clinical information.

(4) Marriage and family therapists represent facts truthfully to clients, third-party payers, and supervisees regarding services rendered

(5) Bartering for professional services may be conducted only if:

   (a) the supervisee or client requests it,

   (b) the relationship is not exploitative,
(c) the professional relationship is not distorted, and

(d) a clear written contract is established.

(6) Marriage and family therapists may not withhold records under their immediate control that are requested and needed for a client's treatment solely because payment has not been received for past services, except as otherwise provided by law.

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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-8-.07, AL ADC 536-X-8-.07
Marriage and family therapists engage in appropriate informational activities, including those that enable the public, referral sources, or others to choose professional services on an informed basis.

(1) Marriage and family therapists accurately represent their competencies, education, training, and experience relevant to their practice of marriage and family therapy.

(2) Marriage and family therapists ensure that advertisements and publications in any media (such as directories, announcements, business cards, newspapers, radio, television, Internet, and facsimiles) convey information that is necessary for the public to make an appropriate selection of professional services. Information could include:

(a) office information, such as name, address, telephone number, credit card acceptability, fees, languages spoken, and office hours;

(b) qualifying clinical degree (see subprinciple 8.5);

(c) other earned degrees (see subprinciple 8.5) and state or provincial licensures and/or certifications;

(d) AAMFT clinical member status; and

(e) description of practice.

(3) Marriage and family therapists do not use names that could mislead the public concerning the identity, responsibility, source, and status of those practicing under that name, and do not hold themselves out as being partners or associates of a firm if they are not.

(4) Marriage and family therapists do not use any professional identification (such as a business card, office sign, letterhead, Internet, or telephone or association directory listing) if it includes a statement or claim that is false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive.
(5) In representing their educational qualifications, marriage and family therapists list and claim as evidence only those earned degrees:

(a) from institutions accredited by regional accreditation sources recognized by the United States Department of Education,

(b) from institutions recognized by states or provinces that license or certify marriage and family therapists, or

(c) from equivalent foreign institutions.

(6) Marriage and family therapists correct, wherever possible, false, misleading, or inaccurate information and representations made by others concerning the therapist's qualifications, services, or products.

(7) Marriage and family therapists make certain that the qualifications of their employees or supervisees are represented in a manner that is not false, misleading, or deceptive.

(8) Marriage and family therapists do not represent themselves as providing specialized services unless they have the appropriate education, training, or supervised experience.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


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Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-8-.08, AL ADC 536-X-8-.08
536-X-9-.01. Board Policies And Procedures.

Alabama Administrative Code Currentness
Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

Ala. Admin. Code r. 536-X-9-.01

536-X-9-.01. Board Policies And Procedures.

(1) **Review Process.** All Applications must be received two (2) weeks prior to the next available board meeting date in order to ensure adequate processing time before board review. Upon receipt of an application and the appropriate fee for a Board approved designation in marriage and family therapy, the Board shall either issue the designation, notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for denying the application, or notify the applicant in writing of the deficiencies in the application. Applicants have two (2) years from the date of the notification of deficiencies to complete the application process. If the process has not been completed within two (2) years, the application shall be denied, and the fee forfeited, and the applicant must reapply and meet the requirements in effect at the time of reapplication. In the event of hardship, the applicant may apply in writing for a one (1) year extension to complete the process.

(2) **Inactive Status.**

(a) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists may notify the Board, on forms provided by the Board (See 536-X-5 APPENDICES 2: FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS) and place their licenses on inactive status and shall be excused from paying renewal fees until they notify the board in writing of the intention to resume active practice.

(b) Any Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist seeking restoration from inactive status shall do so in accordance with the restoration section.

(c) Any Marriage and Family Therapist whose license is on inactive status shall not use the title “Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)” in the State of Alabama. Any person violating this rule shall be considered to be practicing without a license and shall be subject to the disciplinary provision of the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Act.

(3) **Restoring a License**

(a) Any person seeking restoration of a license that has been expired or placed on inactive status for five (5) years or less may have the license restored by paying the fees required (see 536-X-5: APPENDICES 1: FEES) and providing proof of meeting continuing education requirements during the two (2) years prior to restoration (see 536-X-6: REQUIRED RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION EXPERIENCE).

(b) Any person seeking restoration of a license that has been expired or placed on inactive status for more than five (5) years shall file an application on approved forms for review by the Board, together with the required fee (see 536-X-5: APPENDICES 1: FEES) and proof of meeting continuing education requirements (see 536-X-6: REQUIRED
RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION EXPERIENCE) during the two (2) years prior to restoration. The applicant shall also submit either:

1. Sworn evidence of active practice in another jurisdiction. Such evidence shall include a statement from an appropriate board or licensing authority in the other jurisdiction that the licensee was authorized to practice during the term of active practice; or

2. Evidence of having received within the past two (2) years, 50 hours of supervision under a supervisory arrangement approved by the Board.

(4) Board Meeting Procedure

(a) Any person may be heard by the Board in person or through an attorney upon written request to the Board office submitted at least fourteen (14) days prior to the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. Requests to address the Board submitted less than fourteen (14) days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting will be deferred until the following regularly scheduled meeting.

(b) Board meetings shall be conducted following a written agenda. The Alabama Open Meetings Act and/or Robert's Rules of Order, short form, shall be used as the parliamentary authority for all meetings of the Board.

Author: The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:


HISTORY:


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