

Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage
And Family Therapy

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family
Therapy

RULE NO. & TITLE: 536-X-1 Definition of Terms


INTENDED ACTION: Amend

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Board proposes amend the regulations to include teletherapy services within the scope of practice and outline procedures and policies that must be followed by marriage and family therapists.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: Written comments will be received by the Board until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 4, 2018. Comments should be directed to Keith E. Warren, Executive Director at 2777 Zelda Road, Montgomery, AL 36106 or via electronic mail at keith@alstateboard.com or via telephone at 334-395-7455.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:
Monday, June 4, 2018.

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY: Keith E. Warren
Executive Director
2777 Zelda Road
Montgomery, AL 36106
(334) 395-7455



Keith E. Warren, *Executive Director*
Alabama Board of Examiners of Marriage and
Family Therapy

APA-1
11/96

**TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

Control _____ Department or Agency: Alabama Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapy

Rule No.: 536-X-1

Rule Title: Definition of Terms

_____ New Amend _____ Repeal _____ Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly Harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? Yes

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's Police power and the protection of the public health, Safety, or welfare? Yes

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation Available that could adequately protect the public? No

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or Indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services Involved and, if so, to what degree? No

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the public Than the harm that might result from the absence of The proposed rule? No

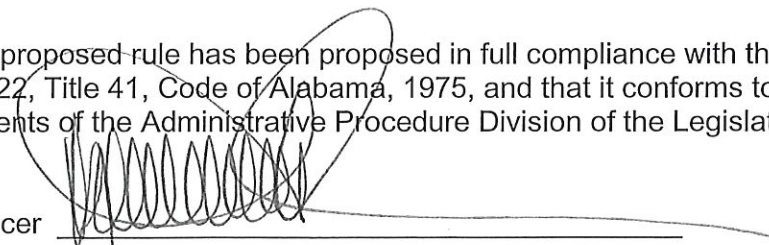
Are all facets of the rulemaking process designed solely For the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary Effect, the protection of the public? Yes

Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? No

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama, 1975.

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama, 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Services Agency.

Signature of certifying officer 

Date: April 20, 2018

REC'D & FILED

APR 20 2018

(DATE FILED)
(STAMP)

LEGISLATIVE SVC AGENCY

ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 536-X-1
DEFINITION OF TERMS

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536-X-1-.01 Definition Of Terms

536-X-1-.01 Definition Of Terms.

(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 intrapersonal and interpersonal 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) CACREP Program in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling (MCFC) is a master's degree, or doctoral degree clinical training program in marriage and family counseling that is recognized by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) as either having accreditation or candidacy status. The American Counseling Association (ACA) is the parent organization of the CACREP.

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

(67) 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.

(78) Individual Supervision is face-to-face contact between one (1) supervisor and up to two (2) supervisees.

(89) 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.

(910) 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 supervisees clinical work), and supervision of co-therapy cases (supervision outside the session on cases in which the supervisor is a co-therapist).

(101) Regional Educational Accrediting Body is an institution accredited by one of the following: Middle State 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.

(1±2) Supervision of marriage and family therapy is expected to have the following characteristics:

(a) Face-to-face interaction with the supervisor, usually typically 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~~ The 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.

(13) Teletherapy/Technology-assisted services - refers to the scope of marriage and family therapy practice of diagnosis, evaluation, consultation, intervention and treatment of behavioral, social, interpersonal disorders through synchronous or asynchronous two-way electronic communication including but not limited to telephone, videoconferencing, email, text, instant messaging, and social media.

(14) Telesupervision - refers to the practice of supervision by a licensed (teletherapy) supervisor through synchronous or asynchronous two-way electronic communication including but not limited to telephone, videoconferencing, email, text, instant messaging, and social media for the purposes of developing trainee marital and family therapists, evaluating supervisee performance, ensuring rigorous legal and ethical standards within the bounds of licensure, and as a means for improving the profession of marital and family therapy.

(15) Asynchronous - Communication is not synchronized or occurring simultaneously (Reimers, 2014).

(16) Digital Competency - Marriage and family therapists ensure that they are well trained and competent in the use of all chosen technology-assisted professional services. Careful choices of audio, video, and other options are made in order to optimize quality and security of services and to adhere to standards of best practices

for technology-assisted services. Furthermore, such choices of technology are to be suitably advanced and current so as to best serve the professional needs of clients and supervisees. (AAMFT Code of Ethics, 2015).

(17) Electronic Communication - Using Web sites, cell phones, email, texting, online social networking, video, or other digital methods and technology to send and receive messages, or to post information so that it can be retrieved by others or used at a later time.

(18) Encryption - A mathematical process that converts text, video, or audio streams into a scrambled, unreadable format when transmitted over the internet. (Trepal, Haberstroh, Duffey, & Evans, 2007)

(19) HIPAA Compliant - HIPAA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, sets the standard for protecting sensitive patient data. Any company that deals with protected health information (PHI) must ensure that all the required physical, network, and process security measures are in place and followed. This includes covered entities (CE), anyone who provides treatment, payment and operations in healthcare, and business associates (BA), anyone with access to patient information and provides support in treatment, payment or operations. Subcontractors, or business associates of business associates, must also be in compliance.

(20) Synchronous - Communication which occurs simultaneously in real time. (Reimers, 2013)

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 November 15, 2000; effective December 20, 2000. **Amended:** Filed July 10, 2006; effective August 14, 2006. **Amended:** Filed December 22, 2009; effective January 26, 2010. **Amended:** Filed February 8, 2012; effective March 14, 2012. **Amended:** Filed April 20, 2018.