

## ABEMFT News Blasts

- **ABEMFT Web Site Updated** – 9-17-12

New Rules/Regulations and Forms are now available on the ABEMFT web site located at [www.mft.alabama.gov](http://www.mft.alabama.gov). Since several changes have been made to the Rules and Regulations, it is suggested that you read the updated version found under “Rules & Regs” tab. Updated forms to accompany these changes can be found under “Forms” tab.

- **ABEMFT Changes in Continuing Education (CE) Requirements** – 9-17-12

Below is a listing of CE Requirements now in effect:

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**LMFT's:** 40 hours (minimum: 10 hours in Clinical MFT; 6 hours in Diagnosis & Treatment, and 6 hours in Professional Issues & Ethics.)

**Supervisors:** 5 hours in Supervision

**Associates:** 20 hours (minimum: 5 hours in Clinical MFT; 3 hours in Diagnosis & Treatment; and 3 hours in Professional Issues & Ethics.)

**Interns:** 10 hours (minimum: 3 hours in Clinical MFT; 3 hours in Diagnosis & Treatment; and 3 hours in Professional Issues & Ethics.)

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Please refer to the Rules and Regulations, CHAPTER 536-X-6-.01 for detailed CE requirements available at [www.mft.alabama.gov](http://www.mft.alabama.gov). In addition, the CE Reporting Form has been updated for 2012 License Renewals and can be located under the “Forms” tab of the ABEMFT web site.

- **ABEMFT Changes in MFT Education Requirements for Initial Licensure** - 09-18-12

The Attorney General's Office has advised that the new requirements for initial licensure (and new forms) will apply to individuals who apply for licensure after February 6, 2012. Individuals already in process for licensure will continue their application process under the previous Rules and Regulations that were effective at the time of their application.

Changes to the Rules and Regulations specifically pertaining to MFT Education are located in Chapter 536-X-5 – Board Course Requirements, beginning on page 13. The following is a summary of courses now required:

Marriage and Family Studies (two (2) courses, minimum)

Marriage and Family Therapy (three (3) courses, minimum)

Human Development (two (2) courses, minimum)

Professional Issues and Ethics (one (1) course, minimum)

Research (one (1) course, minimum)

Mental Health Diagnosis (one (1) course, minimum) – this course will be required of all licensees beginning January 1, 2013.

- **ABEMFT Changes in MFT Supervision for Initial Licensure** – 09-19-12

Students can now use their graduate internship supervision hours to count toward 100 of the 200 post-degree supervision requirement for LMFT if 1) They apply and are granted internship status prior to beginning their internship (this would ensure that their supervisory arrangement would be Board approved); 2) Internship must contain a ratio of one (1) supervision hour for every five (5) client contact hours; 3) Supervision and client contact hours are completed concurrently. Please refer to the Rules and Regulations, CHAPTER 536-X-2-.02 – Requirements for Licensure: Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) for this information in its entirety.

- **ABEMFT New Supervision Log** – 09-19-12

It is now the responsibility of the candidates for MFT Associate and LMFT and their supervisors to ensure that direct client contact hours and supervision hours are concurrent. Form MFT 10 has been updated along with a new supervision log, Form MFT 10A located at [www.mft.alabama.gov](http://www.mft.alabama.gov). Click on the "Forms" Tab, Form 10 can be found in the application for MFT Associate and application for LMFT. Please refer to the Rules and Regulations, CHAPTER 536-X-2-.02 – Requirements for Licensure: Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) or CHAPTER 536-X-4-.02 – Requirements for designation: Marriage and Family Therapy Associate (MFT Associate) for this information in its entirety.

- **ABEMFT newly titled LMFT Supervisor Mentor** – 09-20-12  
Previously titled LMFT Supervisor of Supervision has now been renamed LMFT Supervisor Mentor. A complete definition of LMFT Supervisor Mentor can be found in the Rules and Regulations, CHAPTER 536-X-3-.01(5) Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Designations, LMFT Supervisor Mentor.
- **ABEMFT requires MFT Intern to renew designation** – 09-20-12  
MFT Intern designation is now required to be renewed every two years if applicable. Please refer to the Rules and Regulations, CHAPTER 536-X-4.01 Requirements for designation: Marriage and Family Therapy Intern (MFT Intern) for this information in its entirety. In order to renew, the Intern must have completed the required 10 hours of CEs (minimum: 3 hours in Clinical MFT; 3 hours in Diagnosis & Treatment; and 3 hours in Professional Issues & Ethics.) Please refer to the Rules and Regulations, CHAPTER 536-X-6-.01 for detailed CE requirements available at [www.mft.alabama.gov](http://www.mft.alabama.gov).
- **ABEMFT strengthens standards of conduct for MFTs** – 09-21-12  
ABEMFT has strengthened the standards of conduct of MFTs regarding sexual intimacy with current clients, former clients and relatives thereof as well as students and supervisees. The following highlight the significant changes in this area. Please refer to the Rules and Regulations, CHAPTER 536-X-8 Standards of Conduct of Marriage and Family Therapists for this information in its entirety.
  - Sexual intimacy with current clients is prohibited.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Marriage and family therapists shall not sexually harass clients. Sexual harassment includes sexual solicitation or requests for sexual favors.
  - 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.

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