

**TITLE 86. STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LICENSURE
CHAPTER 15. LICENSED MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS**

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

RULEMAKING ACTION:

PERMANENT final adoption

RULES:

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

86:15-1-2. [AMENDED]

86:15-1-3. [AMENDED]

Subchapter 5. Application for Licensure

86:15-5-3. [AMENDED]

86:15-5-4. [AMENDED]

Subchapter 9. Supervised Experience Requirements

86:15-9-4. [AMENDED]

Subchapter 13. Issuance and Maintenance of License

86:15-13-3. [AMENDED]

86:15-13-4. [AMENDED]

Subchapter 15. Enforcement

86:15-15-5. [AMENDED]

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State Board of Behavioral Health Licensure; 59 O.S. 2011; 59 O.S. 2001, Section 1901 et. seq]

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n/a

ANALYSIS:

The following permanent rules interpret the Oklahoma Marital and Family Therapist Licensure Act, (59 O.S. 1991, Sections 1901 et seq.)

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PURSUANT TO THE ACTIONS DESCRIBED HEREIN, THE FOLLOWING PERMANENT RULES ARE CONSIDERED FINALLY ADOPTED AS SET FORTH IN 75 O.S. § 253(F), WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF: August 11, 2023.

86:15-1-2. Consumer information

(a) **Directory.** The Board shall provide a directory of Licensed Marital and Family Therapists (LMFTs). The directory of LMFT's shall include but not be limited to the name, academic degree under which the license is held, preferred mailing address, telephone number and license number.

(b) **Brochure.** The Board shall prepare information of consumer interest which describes the regulatory functions of the Board and Board procedures to handle and resolve consumer complaints.

(c) **Request for promulgation, amendment or repeal of a rule.**

(1) Any person may request the Board adopt, amend or repeal a rule in this chapter. The request shall be made in writing and shall include an explanation to support the request. A request shall also include:

(A) the name, address and telephone number of the person making the request;

(B) the name, address and telephone number of the agency or organization the person represents, if any;

(C) the number used to identify the rule if the request is to amend or repeal an existing rule; and

(D) the proposed language if the request is to amend an existing rule or adopt a new rule.

(2) It is the Board's policy to respond to such requests within 30 calendar days.

86:15-1-3. Definitions

When used in this Chapter, the following words or terms shall have the following meaning unless the context of the sentence requires another meaning:

"Act" means the Marital and Family Therapist Licensure Act, 59 O.S. §§ 1925.1 et seq., as amended.

"Approved LMFT supervisor" ("Supervisor") means an individual who meets the qualifications to become an approved supervisor and is approved by the Board as set forth in Section 86:15-9-3 of this Chapter.

"Board" means the State Board of Behavioral Health Licensure.

"Complainant" means any person who files a Request for Inquiry against a LMFT, Candidate, or a person who delivers marital and/or family therapy without a license.

"Complaint Committee" means one Board member who is a LMFT, the Executive Director, the Assistant Attorney General and may include other appropriate individuals as determined by the Committee.

"Direct Client Contact Hours" means the performance of therapeutic or clinical functions that includes diagnosis, assessment and treatment of mental, emotional and behavioral disorders based primarily on verbal communications and intervention with, and in the presence of, one or more clients.

"Employee" means in accordance with 26 U.S.C. § 3121 (d),:

(A) Any officer of a corporation; or

(B) Any individual who, under the usual common law rules applicable in determining the employer-employee relationship, has the status of employee.

"Extra therapeutic relationship" means a familial, social, financial, business, professional, close personal, sexual or other non therapeutic relationship with a client, or engaging in any activity with another person that interferes or conflicts with the LMFT's or LMFT Candidate's professional obligation to a client.

"Face-to-Face learning" means the delivery of graduate coursework or continuing education through instruction that is designed to deliver education to learners who are in the direct physical presence of the educator or designed to deliver education to learners through synchronous instructional delivery methods.

"Face-to-face supervision" means the Supervisor and the Candidate shall be in the physical presence of the other during individual or group supervision.

"Forensic services" means the application of knowledge, training and experience from the mental health field to the establishment of facts and/or the establishment of evidence in a court of law or ordered by a court of law.

"Formal Complaint" means a written statement of alleged violation(s) of the Act and/or Rules which is filed by the Assistant Attorney General. The Formal Complaint schedules an Individual Proceeding before the Board in accordance with 75 O.S. §309.

"Full time" means at least twenty (20) hours of on-the-job experience per week.

"Group supervision" means an assemblage of three (3) to six (6) Candidates.

"Home-study" or **"technology-assisted distance learning"** refers to means the delivery of graduate coursework or continuing education through mailed correspondence or other distance learning technologies, which focuses on ~~synchronous or asynchronous~~ instructional delivery methods. ~~Home-study or technology-assisted distance learning is designed to deliver education to learners who are not in the direct physical presence of the educator.~~

"Licensed marital and family therapist" or **"LMFT"** or **"Licensee"** means a person holding a current license issued pursuant to the provisions of the Marital and Family Therapist Licensure Act;

"Licensed marital and family therapist candidate" (**"Candidate"**) means a person whose application for licensure has

been accepted and who is under supervision for licensure as provided in 59 O.S. §1925.6;

"Licensure Committee" means two LMFT Board members, the Executive Director, and may include other appropriate individuals as determined by the Committee.

"OAC" means the Oklahoma Administrative Code.

"On-site supervisor" means a person who may not be an approved LMFT supervisor but is licensed in the State of Oklahoma as a Licensed Marital and Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Behavioral Practitioner, Psychologist, Clinical Social Worker, Psychiatrist, or Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor employed by the agency employing the LMFT Candidate whose assigned job duties include acting as the immediate supervisor to the LMFT Candidate and who is available to the candidate at all times when counseling services are being rendered by the LMFT Candidate.

"Request for Inquiry" ("RFI") means a written or oral statement of complaint from any person alleging possible violation(s) of the Act and/or Rules.

"Respondent" means the person against whom an Individual Proceeding is initiated.

"Staff" means the personnel of the Board.

"Technology-assisted supervision" refers to supervision that occurs through video teleconferencing, over secure internet connections, wherein a Supervisor and a Candidate are in separate physical locations.

SUBCHAPTER 5. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE

86:15-5-3. Academic and experience requirements

(a) **Fulfillment of Section 1925.6, subsection B of the LMFT Act.**

Persons applying for licensure must have fulfilled the requirements listed in Section 1925.6, Subsection B of the LMFT Act.

(b) **Academic requirements.** Applicants must possess at least a masters degree in marital and family therapy or in a mental health, behavioral science, or counseling related field from a college or university accredited by one of the following six regional accrediting associations recognized by the U.S. Department of Education: The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges; The Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools which is content-equivalent to a graduate degree in marital and family therapy. or;

(c) **Degree requirements.** Applicants must possess at least a masters degree in marital and family therapy or in a mental health, behavioral science, or counseling related field from a degree program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).

(d) **Coursework requirements.** In order to qualify as a "content-equivalent" degree, a graduate transcript must document the minimum number of graduate hours and knowledge areas listed below. Academic courses (3 semester hours or 4 quarter credit hours) must include a minimum of 45 class hours for each course.

(1) Theoretical Foundations of Marital and Family Systems - any course which deals primarily in areas such as family life cycle; theories of family development; marriage and/or the family; sociology of the family; families under stress; the contemporary family; family in a social context; the cross-cultural family; youth/adult/aging and the family; family subsystems; individual, interpersonal relationships (marital, parental, sibling). (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours.)

(2) Assessment and Treatment in Marital and Family Therapy - any course which deals primarily in areas such as family therapy methodology; family assessment; treatment and intervention methods; overview of major clinical theories of marital and family therapy such as: communications, contextual, experiential, object relations, strategic, structural, systemic, transgenerational. (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours.)

(3) Human Development - any course which deals primarily in areas such as human development; personality theory; human sexuality, psychopathology; at least one of which must be in psychopathology or abnormal human behavior. (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours.)

(4) Ethics and Professional Studies - any course which deals primarily in areas such as professional socialization and the role of the professional organization; legal responsibilities and liabilities; independent practice and interprofessional cooperation; ethics; family law. (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter hours.)

(5) Research - any course which deals primarily in areas such as research design, methods, statistics; research in marital and family studies and therapy. (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter hours.)

(6) Practicum/Internship ~~(at least 300 clock hours.)~~ at least one (1) course of an organized practicum or internship with at least three hundred (300) clock hours in marital and family therapy with planned experiences providing classroom and field experience with clients under the supervision of college or university approved marital and family therapy professionals.

(e) **International degrees.** For applicants with international degrees, the Board shall review the applications of applicants for licensure under this Chapter who have received a post-secondary degree from an educational institution outside the United States. The Board shall determine whether the applicant's experience, command of the English language, and completed academic program

meet the standards of an academic program of an accredited educational institution.

(f) **Experience requirement.**

(1) Applicants must complete two (2) calendar years of work in marital and family therapy following the receipt of the qualifying degree.

(2) These two years must be completed under a supervisor approved by the Board.

(g) **Examination.** Applicants must achieve a passing score on the LMFT examinations.

86:15-5-4. Additional forms

~~(a) Licensure Verification Request Form - name of licensee; licensee license number; and licensee license type.~~

~~(b) Out-of-State License Verification Form - identifying information; type of credential held in other state; license number; issue and expiration date of license; current standing of license; past complaints or sanctions; exam information; supervision information; graduate education; internship documentation; signature and identifying information of person verifying from out-of-state.~~

~~(c) Mailing Addresses Request/Order Form - type of licensure list requested; format requested; identifying information of person making request.~~

~~(d) Licensure Reactivation Request Form - licensure type, identifying information; employment information; graduate education; license type and number; dates of inactivation and reactivation of license.~~

~~(e) LMFT Continuing Education Approval Application Form - name of workshop; program context; program knowledge area; name of presenter; presenter qualifications; date of presentation; number of hours requested; sponsoring agency; name of contact; phone number of contact; signature and signature date of contact; program content in relation to mental health ethics; program content in relation to therapy supervision; number of hours requested for mental health ethics; number of hour requested for therapy supervision.~~

~~(f)~~ The Termination of Supervision Agreement requires the following information:

- (1) name of candidate;
- (2) current place of employment of candidate;
- (3) address of current place of employment of candidate;
- (4) phone number of candidate;
- (5) email address of candidate;
- (6) signature and signature date of candidate, (if available);
- (7) name of supervisor;
- (8) license number of supervisor;
- (9) current place of employment of supervisor;
- (10) phone number of supervisor;

- (11) email address of supervisor;
- (12) signature and signature date of supervisor, (if available); and
- (13) effective date of termination of supervision agreement.

SUBCHAPTER 9. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

86:15-9-4. Duration of supervised experience

(a) Work experience under supervision must extend over a minimum of 24 months. This marital and family therapy related experience must include a minimum of 1000 hours of direct client contact. The candidate must have a minimum of 250 relational hours with two or more members of the relational system present in the session.

(b) Supervision sessions:

(1) should be scheduled weekly and shall be no less than 6.25 hours of supervision for each 42 hours of direct client contact. No more than 42 hours of direct client contact can be counted in a four week period of time, or

(2) may be arranged on a different schedule upon:

(A) written request of the supervisor and supervisee in advance, and

(B) approval of the schedule by the Board.

(c) Total number of face-to-face supervision hours must be at least 150. Supervision in group sessions shall equal no more than 75 hours of the total requirement. ~~Technology-assisted supervision shall not account for more than 75 hours of the total requirement.~~

(d) Approved LMFT Supervisors shall meet with LMFT candidate(s) in person at least once every six month evaluation period when performing technology-assisted supervision.

(e) Supervisors shall perform at least two (2) observations, (live or tape) per each six (6) month evaluation period for each supervisee.

(f) Approved supervisors shall consult with on-site supervisor at least once per supervisee during each reporting period.

SUBCHAPTER 13. ISSUANCE AND MAINTENANCE OF LICENSE

86:15-13-3. License renewal

(a) **Responsibility.** Each LMFT is responsible for renewing his/her license before the expiration date.

(b) **Initial licensing period.** The renewal date of the original license shall be two (2) years from the last day of the month in which the license was originally issued.

(c) **Annual renewal.** Subsequent renewals will be yearly, on or before January 1. License fees will be prorated on a quarterly basis for the first renewal.

(d) **Interim renewal.** The notice for the initial renewal shall solicit the required continuing education documentation and invoice the LMFT for the interim period between the original renewal date

and the following December 31 so that subsequent renewals shall be on a calendar year basis. The renewal notice shall inform the licensee of the number of continuing education hours required by December 31. Fees and continuing education hours shall be prorated according to the schedule below.

(1) For a license expiring during January, February or March the following shall apply:

(A) The renewal fee shall be \$100.00; and

(B) Continuing education of 20 hours shall be due by December 31.

(2) For a license expiring during April, May or June the following shall apply:

(A) The renewal fee shall be \$75.00; and

(B) Continuing education of 15 hours shall be due by December 31.

(3) For a license expiring during July, August or September the following shall apply:

(A) The renewal fee shall be \$50.00; and

(B) Continuing education of 10 hours shall be due by December 31.

(4) For a license expiring during October or November, the following shall apply:

(A) The renewal fee shall be \$25.00; and

(B) Continuing education of 5 hours shall be due by December 31.

(5) Licenses expiring in December are not prorated.

(e) **Requirements for renewal.** Requirements for renewal are:

(1) Compliance with the Act and Board rules.

(2) Documentation of the required continuing education. (See 86:15-13-4 for information regarding C.E.).

(3) Payment of the renewal fee(s).

~~(4) Submission of Continuing Education Roster, on official Board form.~~

(f) **Display of renewal certificate.**

(1) License renewal verification cards shall be displayed on the original (or replaced) license certificate.

(2) A current license verification card shall be readily available on the LMFTs person at any time marital and therapy services are being provided.

86:15-13-4. Continuing education

(a) **Purpose.** The purpose of the requirements in this Section is to establish the continuing education requirements necessary for license renewal.

(b) **Number of hours required.**

(1) Licensees shall complete and furnish documentation to the Board of twenty (20) clock hours of acceptable continuing education per year. One college credit hour is equal to fifteen (15) clock hours.

(2) A minimum of three (3) clock hours of continuing education hours must be in mental health ethics from programs ~~pre-approved~~approved by the Board or its designee. Continuing education in mental health ethics is acceptable as meeting the ~~pre-approval~~approved requirements by the Board when the continuing education program:

(A) Addresses ethics issues specifically pertaining to the practice of therapy, as defined in Section 1925.2(7) of this Act;

(B) Addresses regulations as promulgated in Subchapter 3 of this Chapter; and

(C) Meets all requirements of subsections (b) through (e) of OAC 86:15-13-4 of this Chapter.

~~(D) Beginning renewal year 2009, the three clock hours of mental health ethics continuing education must be accrued in a face-to-face setting.~~

(~~D~~) Current LMFT Board members shall receive clock hours of acceptable continuing education in mental health ethics for attendance and participation in Board or Committee meetings.

(3) Approved LMFT Supervisors are required to complete a minimum of three (3) clock hours of continuing education in therapy supervision specific to Oklahoma law provided by the Board or its designee. Continuing education in Therapy Supervision is acceptable as meeting the ~~pre-approval~~approved requirements by the Board when the continuing education program:

(A) Addresses issues specifically related to the practice of therapy supervision pursuant to regulations promulgated in Subchapter 9 of this Chapter; and

(B) Contains content in one or more of the following knowledge areas:

(i) Overview of a supervision model;

(ii) Supervisors' areas of focus and roles in supervision;

(iii) Supervisors' process and practical application;

(iv) Ethical dilemmas involved in therapy supervision;

(v) Methods of effectively addressing and preventing ethical dilemmas in therapy supervision;

(vi) Overview of AAMFT standards of supervision; or

(vii) Overview of Oklahoma LMFT Rules and Regulations regarding therapy supervision; and

(C) Meets all requirements of subsections (b) through (e) of OAC 86:15-13-4 of this Chapter.

(c) **Acceptable continuing education.** Continuing education is acceptable to the Board when it:

(1) approximates the content of any of the academic areas listed under Subchapter 5 of this Chapter and;
(2) is presented by a person who meets one of the following qualifications:

(A) is licensed or certified by therapy related professions;

(B) is a licensed or certified member of a non-therapy field (i.e. medicine, law) if the content of the presentation is therapy related and falls within the presenter's area of training;

(C) has experience teaching, at the graduate level, in a regionally accredited college or university from any of the knowledge areas listed in OAC 86:15-5-3 of this Chapter;

(D) the person is presenting or has presented at a national mental health conference provided by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), American Psychological Association (APA), American Counseling Association (ACA), or any of its divisions, National Association for Social Workers (NASW), the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), or other nationally recognized professional organization in the mental health field;

(E) is presenting in a program sponsored or provided by a state or federal government agency with responsibility for mental health and substance abuse services; and

(3) takes place in the context of one of the following:

(A) a college course, in-service training, institute, seminar, workshop, conference or a Board pre-approved technology-assisted distance learning or home-study course;

(B) a national mental health conference provided by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), American Psychological Association (APA), American Counseling Association (ACA), or any of its divisions, National Association for Social Workers (NASW), the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), or other nationally recognized professional organization in the mental health field;

(C) a program approved or offered by a state or federal government agency with responsibility for mental health and substance abuse services; or

(D) Board or Committee meetings, for current Board members.

(d) **Continuing education accrual from teaching.** Continuing education may also be accrued when the LMFT teaches in programs such as institutes, seminars, workshops, and conferences, when the content conforms to OAC 86:15-13-4(c) of this subchapter, provided

that such teaching is not required as part of the LMFT's regular employment. Two hours of C.E. is credited for each hour taught.

(e) **Continuing education accrual from technology-assisted distance learning or home-study courses.** Continuing education may be accrued when the LMFT completes technology-assisted distance learning or home-study programs that are approved by the Board. ~~No more than ten (10) hours of continuing education may be accrued per renewal period through technology-assisted distance learning or home-study courses.~~

(f) **Professional audience.** Continuing education, whether received or presented by the LMFT must be targeted toward a professional audience.

(g) **Documentation of attendance.** LMFT's shall retain verification of attendance documents for all C.E. hours claimed for a period of two (2) years. Acceptable C.E. verification of attendance documents are:

- (1) an official continuing education validation form furnished by the presenter, or,
- (2) a letter on the sponsoring presenter's letterhead giving the name of the program, location, dates, subjects taught, total number of hours attended, participant's name and presenter's name and credentials, or,
- (3) an official college transcript showing courses or audit credit, or
- (4) (For teaching) a letter on sponsoring agency's letterhead giving the name of the program, location, dates, subject taught and total number of hours taught.

(h) **Submission of continuing education roster.** ~~LMFT's shall submit a Continuing Education Roster, on official Board forms, (not individual verification of attendance documents) with the license renewal fee. Rosters may be obtained from the LMFT office. The Continuing Education Roster shall include the name of the licensee, signature and signature date of the licensee, total clock hours of workshop(s), name of workshop(s), sponsoring agency of workshop, date of workshop, and the number of hours of each workshop. Only C.E. accrued in the preceding license renewal period is acceptable.~~

(i) **Audit of continuing education submissions.** In November of each year, the Board will randomly select from two (2) to twenty-five (25) percent of the number of LMFT's on active status the previous year for an audit of their claimed Continuing Education credits. These selected LMFT's must then provide the Board with verification of all credits claimed on their Continuing Education Roster on or before the renewal deadline. The Board may, at its discretion, audit and require verification of any credits claimed which it may consider questionable or fraudulent.

(j) **Penalty for failure to submit continuing education.** Failure to fulfill the C.E. requirement by the renewal date renders the license in suspension. All rights granted by the license are null and void until the requirement is fulfilled and a late renewal fee

is paid. The LMFT has 12 months from the date of suspension to become reinstated. If not reinstated, the license shall be revoked.

(k) **Submission of fraudulent continuing education.** The submission of fraudulent C.E. hours will be reviewed by the License Committee for disciplinary action and may result in suspension or revocation of license.

(l) **Responsibility.** The licensee is ultimately responsible for providing or arranging for sponsors to provide the information necessary for the Board to make a determination of the suitability of the program for continuing education requirements.

(m) **Continuing Education Rosters for LMFT Approved Supervisors.**

(1) Effective January 1, 2020, approved LMFT Supervisors are required to complete a minimum of three (3) clock hours of continuing education in therapy supervision each renewal period. Approved Supervisor designation will not be renewed until the continuing education requirement for each missed renewal period is met.

~~(2) Every year, LMFT Approved Supervisors are required to submit three (3) hours of continuing education in therapy supervision on the LMFT Approved Supervisor Continuing Education Roster.~~

~~(3) The LMFT Approved Supervisor Continuing Education Roster shall include name of licensee, signature and signature date of licensee, total clock hours of workshop(s), name of therapy supervision workshop, sponsoring agency of workshop(s), date of workshop(s), and number of hours of each workshop.~~

~~(4) If continuing education requirement is not met within five~~

~~(5) years of expiration, approved supervisor status will be permanently expired and the LMFT must apply and meet the requirements in Subchapter 9, including the retaking of 86:15-9-3(a) (2) (B) to become an approved supervisor.~~

SUBCHAPTER 15. ENFORCEMENT

86:15-15-5. Cooperation with investigations

LMFTs and Candidates shall cooperate when Board staff, Complaint Committee members, and/or investigators make inquiries concerning a RFI made against them. Failure to cooperate is grounds for further disciplinary action under the Act and/or Rules. In addition, LMFTs and Candidates named in the complaint shall not contact, attempt to contact, or allow anyone else to contact the person(s) who filed the complaint or the person(s) who the LMFT and Candidate named in the complaint believes may have filed the complaint.