

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

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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 five (5) 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 asynchronous instructional delivery methods.

"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.~~

"On-the-job experience" means the performance of marital and family therapy as described in Section 1925.2 of the Act and includes the application of assessment, diagnosis and treatment of disorders, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within the context of marital and family systems. Marital and family therapy involves the professional application of family systems theories and techniques in the delivery of services to individuals, marital pairs, and families for the purpose of treating such disorders.

"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.

"Semi-Annual" means every six (6) months.

"Staff" means the personnel of the Board.

"Supervised relational contact" means clinical contact with two or more members of the relational system present in the session.

"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

86:15-5-2. Application procedures

(a) General.

(1) The purpose of this section is to insure that all applicants meet those requirements specified in Section 1925.6 of the Act.

(2) Unless otherwise indicated, an applicant must submit all required information and documentation of credentials on official Board forms.

(3) The Board will not consider an application as officially submitted until receipt of the Application, application fee, official graduate transcripts, Internship/Practicum Documentation Form, and completed criminal background check. The fee must accompany the Application Form.

(b) Application materials. The purpose of this section is to list the materials required in the application process. All documents must be completed in full by the applicant:

- (1) Application form.
- (2) Official transcript,
- (3) Internship/practicum Documentation Form.
- (4) Completed criminal background check, and
- (5) Application Fee.

(c) Application forms.

(1) Application form - identifying information; graduate education and course work; possession of other credentials; professional ethics and conduct.

(2) Internship/Practicum Documentation Form - identifying information; time, place, location of practicum

(3) Supervision Agreement - supervisor and supervisee agree to terms set forth for the accrual of supervised experience; requires identifying information of supervisee and supervisor as follows:

- (A) Name of candidate;
- (B) Name of candidate's place of employment;
- (C) Location supervised experience hours are being accrued;

~~(D) Candidate's contact information;~~
~~(E) Signature of Candidate;~~
~~(F) Name of Approved LMFT Supervisor;~~
~~(G) Name of Approved LMFT Supervisor's place of employment;~~
~~(H) LMFT Approved Supervisor's contact information;~~
~~(I) Signature of LMFT Approved Supervisor;~~
~~(J) Name of On-Site Supervisor;~~
~~(K) On-Site Supervisor's licensure information;~~
~~(L) Name of On-Site Supervisor's place of employment;~~
~~(M) On-Site Supervisor's contact information;~~
~~(N) Signature of On-Site Supervisor.~~

(4) Evaluation of Supervised Experience document - identifying information; time, place and duration of supervised experience; number of hours of direct client contact with different populations; supervisor's rating of professional activity; supervisor's comment section, and record of supervised experience.

(5) Completed criminal background check.

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 regionally 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~~ The New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE), The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSCHE), The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); The WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), or their predecessors or successors, 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).~~ In order to be considered acceptable, the graduate degree(s) shall:

(1) be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).; or
(2) be from a program deemed content-equivalent to the COAMFTE educational requirements as determined by the Board. The degree must include a program whose primary focus is clearly to prepare the applicant for a career in family therapy and be listed in the college or university catalog.; or
(3) be from a non-COAMFTE approved program or a program that has not been deemed equivalent by the Board. The applicant must submit their educational credentials to the Board or the Board's designated credentialing agency for evaluation and determination of whether the program satisfies the requirements of Subchapter 5. Applicants with degrees earned from institutions outside the United States must provide an acceptable comprehensive evaluation of the degree performed by a foreign credential evaluation service that is acceptable to the Board or the Board's designated credentialing agency, and any other requirement(s) the Board deems necessary.

(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, ~~three~~ 3(3) semester hours or ~~four~~ 4(4) quarter credit hours, must include a minimum of 45 class hours for each course.

(1) Theoretical Foundations of Marital and Family Systems - ~~anyat~~ at least three (3) coursecourses which deals ~~primarily in~~ with one or more of the following 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 - ~~anyat~~ at least three (3) coursecourses which deals ~~primarily in~~ with one or more of the following 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 - ~~anyat~~ at least three (3) coursecourses which deals ~~primarily in~~ with one or more of the following areas—such as: human development; personality theory; human sexuality, psychopathology. ~~at~~ At least one (1) of which course must be in psychopathology or abnormal human behavior. ~~(3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours.)~~

(4) Ethics and Professional Studies - ~~any~~at least one (1) course which deals primarily inwith one or more of the following 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~~at least one (1) course which deals primarily inwith one or more of the following 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 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.

SUBCHAPTER 9. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

86:15-9-2. Acceptable supervised experience

Supervised experience is acceptable when:

(1) it begins after all applicable academic requirements as stated in Subchapter 5 have been completed, verification of Oklahoma LMFT Examination passing score and National Examination passing score has been received by the Board, and supervision agreement has been approved by the Board.

(2) official application for licensure has been made. This includes Application, application fee, Internship/Practicum Documentation Form, official graduate transcript, completed criminal background check, and Supervision Agreement.

Applicants who have met part or all of supervision experience

requirements for clinical membership in AAMFT will be considered to have met part or all of the supervision requirements for licensure in Oklahoma.

(3) it consists of the performance of therapy activities as described in Section 1925.2, subsection 7 and 9 of the LMFT Act and contains the following characteristics:

(A) supervision focuses on the raw data from a supervisee's continuing clinical practice, which may be available to the supervisor through a combination of direct observation, co-therapy, written clinical notes, and audio and video recordings and the LMFT Act and Regulations.

(B) supervision is a process clearly distinguishable from personal psychotherapy, and is contracted in order to serve professional/vocational goals.

(C) individual supervision or technology-assisted supervision shall be face-to-face with one (1) supervisor and one (1) or two (2) supervisees.

(D) group supervision or technology-assisted supervision may include three (3) to six (6) supervisees and a supervisor.

~~(E) technology-assisted supervision must be approved by the Board prior to the accrual of hours. Factors to be considered by the Board include: distance between approved supervisor and candidate; financial hardship on approved supervisor or candidate; physical hardship on approved supervisor or candidate; specialty credentials; and other pertinent factors.~~

(4) supervised experience hours may be accrued in academic, governmental, or private practice settings.

(5) the supervised experience is accrued in a private for-profit or private not-for-profit therapy setting, only if:

(A) The LMFT Candidate is an employee, as defined by 86:15-1-3, of the place of employment where supervised experience hours are being accrued~~same facility as a person licensed in the state of Oklahoma as a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Licensed Marital and Family Therapist, a Licensed Behavioral Practitioner, a Psychologist, a Psychiatrist, a Clinical Social Worker, or a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, whose assigned job duties include being immediately available to the LMFT Candidate for supervision at any time the LMFT Candidate is engaging in the practice of therapy or therapy-related services.~~

(B) The LMFT Candidate is receiving supervision for licensure from an approved LMFT supervisor who is not required to work at the same location as the LMFT Candidate that has agreed to be immediately available to the LMFT Candidate for supervision at any time the LMFT

Candidate is engaging in the practice of marital and family therapy or marital and family therapy-related services.

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

(a) Three thousand (3000) clock hours of full time on-the-job experience, which is supervised by an approved LMFT supervisor, shall be completed. Work experience under supervision must extend over a minimum of 24 months. Included in the three thousand (3000) clock hours of full time on-the-job experience, a minimum of one thousand (1000) hours shall be from direct client contact, two hundred and fifty (250) hours shall be from supervised relational contact, one hundred (100) hours must be face-to-face or technology-assisted supervision.

(b) Weekly, face-to-face supervision or technology-assisted supervision shall be accrued under a Board approved LMFT supervisor at a minimum of forty-five (45) minutes of supervision every week.

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

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

(e) Candidates shall complete supervised experience requirements within sixty (60) months of the date of the approval of the first supervision agreement or the application shall be voided.

86:15-9-5. Documentation of supervised experience

(a) An LMFT Supervision Agreement between supervisor and supervisee must be received and approved by the Board prior to the accrual of supervision hours.

(b) The supervisor and supervisee shall sign and submit the "Evaluation of Supervised Experience," ~~including documentation of observations and date of consultation between approved supervisor and on-site supervisor,~~ semi-annually beginning as of the date of the approval of the first supervision agreement.

(c) Any Evaluation of Supervised Experience form submitted beyond 60 days of the semi-annual due date will not be credited towards the duration of supervision as described in 86:15-9-5(b).

(d) Supervised experience shall be reported in quarter credit hours.

(e) Supervisors shall maintain supervision records for at least seven (7) years beyond termination of supervision.