

**TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

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

Rule No.: 536-X-1.01

Rule Title: Definition of Terms

 New X 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
Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer 
Paula McCaleb, Executive Director 334.215.7233

Date: December 16, 2011

(DATE FILED)
(STAMP)

Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME:

Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

RULE NO. & TITLE:

536-X-1-01, Definition of Terms.
536-X-2-01, Required for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
536-X-2-02, Requirements for Licensure: Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
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.
536-X-3-01, Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Designations
536-X-4-01, Requirements for designation: Marriage and Family Therapy Intern (MFT Intern)
536-X-4-02, Requirements for designation: Marriage and Family Therapy Associate (MFT Associate)
536-X-4-03, Requirements for designation: LMFT Supervisor Candidate
536-X-4-04, Requirements for designation: LMFT Approved Supervisor
536-X-4-05, Requirements for designation: LMFT Supervisor
536-X-4-06, Guidelines for: Case by Case Supervision
536-X-4-07, Guidelines for: Examination Application Requirements
536-X-5-01, Board Course Requirements
536-X-6-01, Required Relevant Professional and Continuing Education Experience
536-X-8-01, Responsibility to Clients
536-X-8-02, Confidentiality
536-X-8-03, Professional Competence and Integrity
536-X-8-04, Responsibility to Students and Supervisees
536-X-8-06, Responsibility to the Profession
536-X-8-07, Financial Arrangements
536-X-9-01, Board Policies and Procedures
APPENDICES 1, FEES
APPENDICES 2, FORMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS

INTENDED ACTION:

Amend

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy proposes to amend an Administrative Code or Rules and regulations under which to operate. Specifically, the proposed amendment is to amend Supervision Requirements to be in compliance with National Standards.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:

Written comments, views, or arguments will be received by the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy at 9:00 am. on February 3, 2012. Comments should be directed to Paula McCaleb, Executive Director, at P.O. Box 240066, Montgomery, AL 36124, or via fax at 334-215-7231. A public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 3, 2012 at 2011 Berry Chase Place, Montgomery, AL 36117.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:

February 3, 2012

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:

Paula McCaleb, Executive Director
334.215.7233



Paula McCaleb, Executive Director

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, ~~understand,~~ and treat emotional, ~~and mental,~~ and behavioral disorders problems. Marriage and family therapy includes, without being limited to, individual, group, couple, sexual, and family and divorce 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 problems 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) 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 supervisees 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 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.

(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 formal learning contract between supervisee and supervisor that is both academic and clinical and that defines the learning process;~~
- (c) (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.
- ~~(d) If availability of supervisors permits, the experience should include at least two supervisors with diverse family therapy theoretical orientations.~~ (d) Without approval of the Board, a supervisee may not have more than two (2) supervisors.
- (e) The following characteristics are not acceptable as clinical supervision:
- (1) ~~(a)~~ Peer supervision, i.e., supervision by a person of equivalent, rather than superior, qualifications, status and experience;
 - (2) ~~(b)~~ Supervision by current or former family members or any other person where the nature of the personal relationship triangulates compromises the professional relationship;
 - (3) ~~(c)~~ Administrative supervision (i.e., clinical practice performed under administration rather than clinical supervision of a director or executive director);
 - (4) ~~(d)~~ 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: Code of Alabama, 1975. §-34-17A-1 thru §34-17A-26.

Amended: Filed October 15, 2009; **Effective Date: December 10, 2009**

Amended: Filed December 16, 2011; **Effective Date: February 6, 2012**

CHAPTER 536-X-2
REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST

536-X-2.01 Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) – An individual who has met Board requirements to practice marriage and family therapy in an independent setting.

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 post-degree supervision, one-hundred (100) of which must be individual. Graduates of COAMFTE accredited programs~~Candidates~~ may count up to one-hundred (100) supervision hours earned during the ~~program~~graduate program toward this requirement, when based on a ratio of one (1) supervision hour ~~to for~~ every five (5) client contact hours completed concurrently. ~~For graduates of COAMFTE accredited programs, t~~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 hourssupervision; two hundred-fifty (250) of these direct contact hours must be with couples or families physically present in the therapy room.

~~(8) Examination Application Requirements: The following are necessary requirements in order to take the Board approved marriage and family therapy examination:~~

- ~~(a) Submission of a completed application on the forms prescribed by the Board;~~
- ~~(b) Is an MFT Associate or has met all requirements for becoming an MFT Associate.~~

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).

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: Code of Alabama, 1975, §-34-17A-1 thru §34-17A-26.

Effective Date: February 8, 2007.

Amended: Filed December 16, 2011; Effective Date: February 6, 2012

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 ~~five (5)~~ four (4) years.

(2) Marriage and Family Therapy 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 of Supervision Mentor– A Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) Approved Supervisor who has met the experience requirements to provide supervision to LMFT Supervisors in-training Candidate.

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

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, §-34-17A-1 thru §34-17A-26.

Amended: Filed October 15, 2009; Effective Date: December 10, 2009

Amended: Filed December 16, 2011; Effective Date: February 6, 2012

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 degree program ~~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, ~~and is under qualified supervision in a supervisory arrangement which is approved by the Board;~~

OR

~~(4) Student in a COAMFTE program currently under program supervision.~~ 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.