

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
APPROVAL ORDER**

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held January 26, 2022

George D. Bedwick, Chairman
John F. Mizner, Esq., Vice Chairman
John J. Soroko, Esq.
Murray Ufberg, Esq.
Dennis A. Watson, Esq.

Regulation No. 16A-6919 (#3281)
State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and
Family Therapists and Professional Counselors
Child Abuse Reporting Requirements

On November 24, 2020, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors (Board). This rulemaking amends 49 Pa. Code Chapters 47, 48 and 49. The proposed regulation was published in the January 2, 2021 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a public comment period ending on February 1, 2021. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on November 30, 2021.

This final-form regulation updates the Board's child abuse reporting regulations to be consistent with the Child Protective Services Law, including the act of April 15, 2014 (P.L. 411, No. 31). 23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6301 – 6388. Social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors are mandated reporters who are required to immediately report suspected child abuse and complete training in child abuse recognition and reporting as a condition of licensure or certification.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Board (63 P.S. § 1906(2)) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

This regulation is approved.



George D. Bedwick
George D. Bedwick, Chairman