# Regulatory Analysis Form

(Completed by Promulgating Agency)

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***INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION***

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Independent Regulatory Review Commission

October 22, 2026

IRRC Number**:** 3474

(1) Agency
Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors

(2) Agency Number: 16A

Identification Number: 6927

(3) PA Code Cite:

49 Pa. Code Chapters 47, 48 and 49:
§§ 47.1a, 47.4, 48.1, 48.3, 48.13a, 48.21—48.25, 48.32, 48.35, 48.36, 48.38, 48.42, 48.51—48.55, 48.57, 48.58, 48.71, 49.1, 49.3, 49.13a, 49.21—49.25, 49.32, 49.35, 49.36, 49.38, 49.42, 49.51—49.55, 49.57, 49.58 and 49.71

(4) Short Title: Associate MFT and PC and Supervision

(5) Agency Contacts (List Telephone Number and Email Address):

Primary Contact: Jacqueline Wolfgang, Senior Regulatory Counsel, Department of State, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523 (phone 717-783-7200) (fax 717-787-0251) jawolfgang@pa.gov.

Secondary Contact: Thomas M. Davis, Board Counsel, State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523 (phone 717-783-7200) (fax 717-787-0251) catully@pa.gov.

(6) Type of Rulemaking (check applicable box):

- ☐ Proposed Regulation
- ☒ **FINAL REGULATION**
- ☐ Final Omitted Regulation
- ☐ Emergency Certification Regulation;
  - ☐ Certification by the Governor
  - ☐ Certification by the Attorney General

(7) Briefly explain the regulation in clear and nontechnical language. (100 words or less)

This final-form rulemaking effectuates the act of March 28, 2024, (P.L. 11, No. 4) (Act 4 of 2024) which amends the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act (act) to include the licensure and practice of associate marriage and family therapists (AMFT), and associate professional counselors. This rulemaking establishes the application and biennial renewal fees as set forth in Act 4 of 2024, includes definitions concerning associate licenses, further establishes the requirements to be issued a license as an AMFT and an associate professional counselor under Act 4 of 2024, and amends provisions pertaining to qualifications for supervisors.

(8) State the statutory authority for the regulation. Include specific statutory citation.

Section 6 of the act (63 P.S. § 1906) authorizes the board to pass upon the qualifications and fitness of applicants for licenses and to adopt and revise rules and regulations requiring applicants to pass examinations relating to their qualifications as a prerequisite to the issuance of a license; and to adopt and revise such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the act, including the standards of professional practice and conduct for licensed AMFTs and licensed associate professional counselors in this Commonwealth. Section 18(c) of the act (63 P.S. §1918(c)) provides that all fees required under the act shall be fixed by the board by regulation.

Section 8 of Act 4 of 2024 directs the board to promulgate regulations to implement this act, which provided for the licensure of AMFTs and associate professional counselors. Section 3 of the Act 4 of 2024 further set the application fee of associate licenses at $75 (63 P.S. § 1907(e.1)(1)(vi) and (f.1)(1)(vi)) and the biennial renewal fee of associate licenses at $95 (63.P.S. § 1907(e.1)(2) and (f.1)(2)).

(9) Is the regulation mandated by any federal or state law or court order, or federal regulation? Are there any relevant state or federal court decisions? If yes, cite the specific law, case or regulation as well as, any deadlines for action.

Section 8 of Act 4 of 2024 directs the board to promulgate regulations for the licensure of AMFTs and professional counselors. Otherwise, the regulation is not mandated by any Federal or State law or court order or Federal regulation.

(10) State why the regulation is needed. Explain the compelling public interest that justifies the regulation. Describe who will benefit from the regulation. Quantify the benefits as completely as possible and approximate the number of people who will benefit.

Act 4 of 2024 directs the board to promulgate regulations for the licensure of AMFTs and associate professional counselors. By way of background, Act 4 of 2024 was enacted to create licensed AMFT and licensed associate professional counselor credentials for the Commonwealth to add crucial resources for mental health care providers. In this Commonwealth, there are increased incidents of depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts in adults and children. The associate licenses will enhance access to mental health services by increasing employment opportunities for these professions. At least 26 states have established associate type licenses for these professions. This regulation will help ensure that AMFTs and associate professional counselors are properly trained and pursuing full licensure while engaging with patients. Further, this regulation will support emerging professionals who are pursuing licensure as an MFT or professional counselor. The associate license provides these professionals with a formalized way to practice while they accumulate the necessary experience to obtain full licensure. There are approximately 19,180 active MFTs and professional counselor licensees under the board including: 127 AMFTs, 1,241 associate professional counselors, 1,415 MFTs, and 16,397 professional counselors.

Additionally, the board amends regulations pertaining to supervision qualifications at §§ 47.1a, 48.3 and 49.3 (relating to qualifications for supervisors) to update and clarify supervisor standards. The board amends the supervisor educational training requirements in § 48.3, pertaining to qualifications for supervisors of individuals pursuing a marriage and family therapist license, to allow for additional methods of training, including 6 continuing education (CE) hours on clinical supervision. The board considers the existing standard requiring supervisors to be certified as an approved supervisor by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) to be overly burdensome and discourages licensees from becoming supervisors. The board also adds the same supervisor educational/training requirements for all licensure categories under this board by adding the requirement that a supervisor must complete at least 6 CE

clock hours on supervision prior to beginning as a supervisor. Supervisors who have already taken a graduate level course on supervision or who have completed a clinical supervisor certification program are considered to have met the supervisor educational/training requirements. This amendment will put safeguards in place for supervisees, without being overly burdensome, to ensure proper supervision by supervisors.

(11) Are there any provisions that are more stringent than federal standards? If yes, identify the specific provisions and the compelling Pennsylvania interest that demands stronger regulations.

There are no Federal standards applicable to the subject matter of the regulation.

(12) How does this regulation compare with those of the other states? How will this affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states?

This regulation will not adversely affect this Commonwealth's ability to compete with other states. The creation of associate licenses will enhance access to mental health services by increasing employment opportunities in the marriage and family therapy and professional counseling professions. In addition, surrounding states have adopted similar associate licensure frameworks, and at least 26 states have established associate-level licenses in these fields.

The board's amendments to the supervisor qualification requirements in § 48.3 will reduce barriers to becoming a supervisor and encourage more licensees to serve in that role. Further, the board's decision to establish consistent supervisor education and training requirements across all professions regulated by the board is a fair and equitable approach that promotes uniformity and consistency among the professions under the board's jurisdiction.

In comparing these regulatory amendments to other states, the board researched states in the Northeastern region of the United States, specifically Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and West Virginia. The board researched whether other state boards for these professions have associate level licensure and the board compared the other states requirements, including continuing education and MFT supervisor qualifications.

Of the six states researched, all six states have some form of associate level licensure for MFTs and professional counselors after general and educational requirements are met, while applicants are obtaining supervised experience. Two states specify that a supervision plan is required for initial application. The duration of these associate level licenses vary by state with four states limiting the license duration to 2-3 years with two possible renewals or 2 years of extension allowed. Two states have no limits to the duration or renewals of the associate type license. Concerning CE, five states require CE hours for renewal, ranging anywhere from 20-40 hours each renewal period. For MFT supervisor qualifications, none of the six states require AAMFT training for the Approved Supervisor designation. Three of the six states incorporate AAMFT supervisor designation as one of the possible means for approval as a supervisor. All six states allow for other means outside of AAMFT approved supervisor designation such as a combination of current license status, experience and supervision training/CE hours for MFT supervisor approval. Concerning licensed professional counselor (LPC) supervisor qualifications, five states allow for CE or supervision education hours, with the exception being New York; Three states allow for outside supervisor credentialing by a National organization, and two states have board-sponsored programs for state supervising credentials.

Delaware

The Delaware Board of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals provides licensure as an AMFT (LAMFT) and associate counselor of mental health (LACMH). In Delaware, it is required that all the general and educational requirements for licensed MFTs and licensed counselors of mental health be completed for associate licensure, except the requirements dealing with required experience. The Delaware board also requires a plan for professional direct supervision. The LAMFT and LACMH license is effective for a period of 2 years and may be renewed up to 2 times. Both types of associate licensees may apply for Delaware board exams for non-associate licensure once proof of the required experience is submitted and approved. Associate license holders are not required to complete CE for renewal. For MFT supervisor approval, Delaware does not require AAMFT approved supervisor designation for obtaining the state approved supervisor designation, but it is listed among other possible means for supervisor approval. For supervisor approval as an LPC, Delaware requires 3 CE hours in clinical supervision within 2 years, or 12 lifetime CE hours in the same.

Maryland

The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists provides licensure as a graduate MFT and graduate professional counselor for applicants that meet education requirements, such as a master's or a doctoral degree in a related field. Applicants for graduate MFT must have supervised clinical internship or practicum hours completed under supervision and hours of direct client contact with couples, families and individuals to be approved. Applicants for graduate professional counselor licensure must provide transcripts of prescribed coursework for Maryland board review. Upon review of the application, the Maryland board will determine if applicants are eligible to take the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) exam or National Counselors Exam (NCE), and the Maryland Law Assessment (MLA). All applicants are requested to complete a criminal history records check (CHRC). Graduate license holders are required to take 40 CE units for each renewal. For MFT supervisor approval, Maryland does not require AAMFT approved supervisor designation but lists it among other possible means for obtaining the board-approved supervisor designation. Maryland also allows for CE hours to be used for supervisor approval. To obtain board-approved supervisor status, a licensed clinical professional counselor must complete either complete 3 graduate semester credits in clinical supervision, a board-approved program with at least 18 CEUs in supervision, or the NBCC Approval Clinical Supervisor credential.

New Jersey

The New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners provides licensure as an AMFT for applicants that meet general, educational and experiential qualifications. Educational requirements include at least a master's degree in a related field. Experience requirements include 3 years of full-time counseling experience, or equivalent. The applicant shall submit the supervisor's resume or curriculum vitae and a written plan for supervision of the licensed AMFT, which must be approved by the New Jersey board prior to the performance of counseling. The applicant must complete a CHRC. An AMFT license can be renewed no more than two times. All licensed AMFTs shall complete 20 contact hours of CE for license renewal. For MFT supervisor approval, New Jersey does not require AAMFT training or specific CE hours for the supervisor designation but appears to focus on degrees, experience and other credentials to be approved as a supervisor.

The New Jersey Professional Counselor Examiners Committee provides licensure as an associate professional counselor for applicants that have completed a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours in a planned educational program, which includes a master's degree or doctorate in counseling with specific semester hours in prescribed areas, have passed the NCE and completed a CHRC. An associate professional counselor licensed for two or more biennial renewal periods shall complete 40 contact hours

of CE for all subsequent renewals of the associate license. For supervisor approval of an LPC, New Jersey appears to focus on degrees, experience and other credentials to be approved as a supervisor. In addition, the LPC must also have the CCE/NBCC Approved Clinical Supervisor credential, an equivalent clinical-supervisor credential recognized by a licensing board, or at least 3 graduate credits in clinical supervision from a regionally accredited institution.

New York

The New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions has provisions for limited permits to applicants who have satisfied all the requirements for licensure as an MFT or Mental Health Counselor except the examination and/or experience requirements. These limited permits allow applicants to practice marriage and family therapy or mental health counseling under the appropriate supervision while obtaining the needed full licensure requirements. Limited permits are issued only for specific practice sites in New York State under a qualified supervisor acceptable to the department. The limited permit is valid for a period of 2 years but may be extended for up to two additional 1-year periods. Permit holders may be required to complete 36 CE units triennially for renewal. For MFT supervisor approval, New York does not require AAMFT training or specific CE hours but appears to focus on degrees, experience and other credentials to be approved as a supervisor. Similarly with supervisor approval for licensed mental health counselors, New York does not require specific credentialing or specific CE hours but appears to focus on degrees, experience and other credentials to be approved as a supervisor.

Ohio

The Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board has provisions for initial licensure as an MFT or a professional counselor that are precursors to independent or clinical licensure types. Applicants are required to meet educational requirements, successfully complete the licensure examination, meet the Ohio board's requirements for criminal convictions and other general requirements, including completing a CHRC. This type of license is limited in scope without qualified supervision but may be used to obtain the 2 years of supervision required for an independent MFT license or a licensed professional clinical counselor license. Both are required to complete 30 CE hours for renewal. The Ohio board also has provisions for temporary licenses of 1 year for MFTs (and independent MFTs) and 90 days for professional counselors, which are available to individuals who are satisfying requirements for full licensure. For MFT supervisor approval, Ohio does not require AAMFT approved supervisor designation but lists it among other possible means for obtaining the state approved supervisor designation. Ohio also allows for CE hours to be used for supervisor approval. For licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC) supervisor approval, Ohio requires 1 year and 1,500 hours of clinical experience after LPCC licensure, completion of 24 hours of academic preparation or CE in counselor supervision, 5 supervision sessions under another supervision LPCC and a 1-hour review session with same.

West Virginia

The West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling allows issuance of a provisional license as an MFT or licensed professional counselor where provisional licensees may practice only as part of obtaining supervised experience for the license requirement. A provisional license is required before the applicant may begin to obtain supervised experience. The applicant for a provisional license must meet all the licensure requirements, including the academic requirements and have passed the required examination. There are reporting requirements including any interruption in supervision of more than 6 weeks and any changes in supervision, to include change of approved supervisor and/or job positions. A provisional license is valid for 3 years but may be renewed once for an additional 2 years. Provisional license holders are required to complete 35 CE hours for renewal. For MFT supervisor approval, West Virginia does not require AAMFT training or specific CE hours but appears to focus on degrees, experience and other credentials to be approved as a supervisor. To obtain an Approved Licensed Professional Supervisor

credential for LPCs, West Virginia has specific experience requirements and licensees must complete a board-approved clinical supervision training and jurisprudence examination.

Based on all of this information, the board does not believe that the amendments will put this Commonwealth at a competitive disadvantage, but instead, will make Pennsylvania more competitive. At least 26 states have established associate type licenses for these professions. In addition, compared to the four Northeastern researched states with limits to the duration of the license, this Commonwealth will have a longer duration for associate licensees to acquire necessary supervised experience, with an initial duration of 2 years and a possibility for three renewals.

Act 4 of 2024 was enacted to assist in adding crucial resources for mental health care providers for this Commonwealth. The associate licenses will enhance access to mental health services for citizens of this Commonwealth by increasing employment opportunities for these professions. This regulation will support emerging professionals who are pursuing licensure as an MFT or professional counselor by providing these professionals with a formalized way to practice under supervision while they accumulate the necessary experience to obtain full licensure. Also, this regulation helps ensure that AMFTs and associate professional counselors are properly supervised, trained and pursuing full licensure while engaging with patients.

Additionally, the board's amendments to supervisor requirements in § 48.3 will allow for additional methods of training, including 6 CE hours on clinical supervision. Supervisors who have taken a graduate level course on supervision or who have completed a clinical supervisor certification program are considered to have met this requirement. These amendments will make supervisor qualifications less burdensome and encourage more licensees to become supervisors. Of the six states researched in the Northeastern region, none require approved supervisor designation by the AAMFT. This amendment will put this Commonwealth in line with other states and will increase availability of supervisors for recent graduates and AMFTs in obtaining the required supervised experience hours. The board's amendments to supervisory qualifications in chapters 47 and 49 align with amendments in § 48.3 and ensure appropriate supervisory training in clinical social work and professional counseling. This rulemaking will not only make this Commonwealth more competitive with other states but will be a crucial mental health care benefit the citizens of this Commonwealth.

(13) Will the regulation affect any other regulations of the promulgating agency or other state agencies? If yes, explain and provide specific citations.

No, this regulation will not affect any other regulations of the promulgating agency or other State agencies.

(14) Describe the communications with and solicitation of input from the public, any advisory council/group, small businesses and groups representing small businesses in the development and drafting of the regulation. List the specific persons and/or groups who were involved. ("Small business" is defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012.)

The board discusses its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled public board meetings. At the board's public meeting on April 23, 2024, the board discussed Act 4 of 2024 and began the work of drafting the regulations. The board continued to evaluate Act 4 of 2024 and draft the proposed regulations at the June 11, July 16, and October 25, 2024. On November 26, 2024, the board reviewed a draft of the proposal and directed that an exposure draft of the proposal be sent out to interested parties and stakeholders inviting them to comment. After a 30-day comment period, the board did not receive any comments.

Notice of the proposed rulemaking was published at 56 Pa.B. 209 (January 10, 2026). Publication was followed by a 30-day public comment period during which the board received two public comments. (See Attachment "A".) Additionally, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) submitted comments on the proposed rulemaking. The House Professional Licensure Committee (HPLC) and the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee (SCP/PLC) did not submit comments.

(15) Identify the types and number of persons, businesses, small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012) and organizations which will be affected by the regulation. How are they affected?

There are approximately 2,139 active associate licensees, including 127 AMFTs and 1,241 associate professional counselors. There are approximately 1,415 active MFTs and 16,397 professional counselors.

For purposes of this rulemaking, the board estimates that approximately 1,322 associate level applications will be received on an annual basis, including 1,241 individuals applying for associate professional counselor licenses and 81 individuals for AMFT licenses on an annual basis. These figures are the same as the number of applications the board received in 2025, the first full year since the effective date of Act 4 of 2024.

According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), there are approximately 1,169,008 small businesses in Pennsylvania, which is 99.6% of all Pennsylvania businesses. Of the 1,169,008 small businesses, 230,244 are small employers (those with fewer than 500 employees) and the remaining 938,764 are non-employers. Thus, the vast majority of businesses in Pennsylvania are considered small businesses.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry in 2024 (the most recent year for which data is available) MFTs and professional counselors provide their services for a variety of private and public sector employers. It is reasonable to assume that associate licensees would also be working for these employers while obtaining supervised experience. The largest employers of counselors in the State were as self-employed workers being their primary job (39.25%); State government, excluding education and hospitals (22.72%); colleges, universities and professional schools (7.77%); and residential intellectual and developmental disability, mental health and substance abuse facilities (7.22%). The largest employers of MFTs in the state was for individual and family services (41.61%), outpatient care centers (27.51%), offices of other health practitioners (9.56%), and being self-employed workers, as a primary job (11.15%).

Small businesses are defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, (71 P.S. § 745.3) which provides that a small business is defined by the SBA's Small Business Size Regulations under 13 CFR Ch. 1 Part 121. These size standards have been established for types of businesses under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). In applying the NAICS standards to the types of businesses where licensees may work, a small business in the category of offices of physicians, mental health specialists (code 621112) have $13.5 million or less in average annual receipts. For those licensees who are employed in offices of mental health practitioners (except physicians) (code 621330), the small business threshold is $9.5 million or less in average annual receipts. For those licensees who are employed in residential intellectual and developmental disability facilities (code 623210) and outpatient or residential mental health and substance abuse centers/facilities (code 621420 and 623220), the small business threshold is $19.0 million or less in average annual receipts. For those licensees in home health

care services (code 621610), the small business threshold is $19.0 million or less in average annual receipts. For licensees in other individual and family services (code 624190), the small business threshold is $16.0 million or less in average annual receipts. For licensees in all other outpatient centers (code 621498), the small business threshold is $25.5 million or less in average annual receipts. For those licensees employed in colleges, universities and professional schools (code 611310), the small business threshold is $34.5 million or less in average annual receipts.

The NAICS codes do not include thresholds for Federal, State and local governments, and professionals who are self-employed would likely be considered a small business. Also, while many healthcare systems may not be considered small businesses according to the NAICS thresholds, the board does not collect information on the size of the businesses where its licensees are employed. In considering all of these small business thresholds set by the SBA, the board must assume that a large number of its licensees work for small businesses as that term is defined by the SBA and Pennsylvania's Regulatory Review Act.

This rulemaking affects individuals who apply for licensure as AMFTs and associate professional counselors. These individuals would be impacted by the $75 fee to apply for licensure and $95 fee for subsequent biennial renewals. The initial application and renewal fees are set under section 3 of Act 4 of 2024 (63 P.S. § 1907(e.1)(1)(vi), (e.1)(2), (f.1)(1)(vi) and (f.1)(2)). This is the same application fee amount as the application fee for a licensed bachelor social worker or licensed social worker and the same renewal fee for all licensees of the board. Whether small businesses will be impacted by the regulations depends on whether the businesses would pay the application fee for associate licensure and whether employers voluntarily pay the costs of completing associate licensure requirements. Because the application fees and other costs are incurred by individuals applying for any initial licensure or renewal, any business (small or otherwise) could avoid these costs by requiring employees to pay their own licensure costs.

Concerning amendments for licensees seeking to be supervisors, all individuals would be required to obtain supervisor educational training. All the professions under the board may satisfy this requirement with either a graduate level course specific to supervision, a clinical supervisor certification program, or at least 6 hours of CE on clinical supervision, however, these hours may be attributed towards the required 30 clock hours; therefore, the board does not anticipate additional costs for licensees. For licensed MFTs, this final rulemaking makes the training requirement less stringent, but individuals may continue to satisfy training through an approved supervisor designation by the AAMFT. Licensed professional counselors may also satisfy this requirement through an approved clinical supervisor credential from the Center for Credentialing & Education approved clinical supervisor credential program.

The Board believes this rulemaking will have a positive impact because it implements Act 4 of 2024 by providing a comprehensive regulatory framework governing associate licensure and the supervision of individuals obtaining the clinical experience required for licensure as marriage and family therapists and professional counselors. The amendments establish clear and consistent standards governing licensure qualifications, supervision, continuing education and professional practice, thereby providing greater clarity and predictability for applicants, licensees, supervisors and employers. Small businesses employing associate licensees will benefit from regulations that clearly define supervisory responsibilities and licensure requirements, promoting consistent implementation of Act 4 of 2024 while reducing uncertainty regarding compliance obligations. Ultimately, the rulemaking advances the public interest by ensuring that associate licensees obtain appropriate supervised clinical experience before independent practice, thereby promoting competency and protecting the public. Applicants and individuals who receive care from licensees, and small businesses who employ licensees will benefit by clear and updated regulations relating to the licensure and practice of associate professionals.

(16) List the persons, groups or entities, including small businesses, that will be required to comply with the regulation. Approximate the number that will be required to comply.

Applicants for AMFT and associate professional counselor licenses will have to comply with the board's regulations with regard to requirements for licensure and practice. Supervisors would be impacted by the amendments to the supervisor educational training requirements. The board estimates that it received approximately 3,012 associate professional counselor applications and 177 AMFT applications since the effective date of Act 4 of 2024. These associate licensees would also be impacted by biennial renewal fees and requirements should they choose to renew, similar to all other board licensees. The board also does not track the types of businesses where licensees are employed. Small businesses will be impacted only to the extent they voluntarily pay licensure fees and other costs for applicants.

(17) Identify the financial, economic and social impact of the regulation on individuals, small businesses, businesses and labor communities and other public and private organizations. Evaluate the benefits expected as a result of the regulation.

The board believes that this rulemaking will have a positive impact through this final rulemaking which fully implements Act 4 of 2024. The citizens of this Commonwealth will benefit from the enhanced workforce and growth in available professionals while still having assurance of a level of competence. Like licensees, applicants and individuals who receive care from licensees, and small businesses who employ licensees will benefit by clear and updated regulations relating to the licensure and practice of associate professionals.

The financial impact of the regulation falls primarily on the applicants and the board. Individuals seeking associate level licensure will incur costs associated with qualifying for and obtaining a license. As noted above, an applicant applying for associate licensure under Act 4 of 2024 would be required to pay the $75 application fee, which covers the costs of processing the application and a $95 biennial renewal fee should they choose to renew. This application fee is the same for other applicants applying for a license as a bachelor social worker or licensed social worker and is authorized under section 3 of Act 4 of 2024 (63 P.S. § 1907(e.1)(1)(vi) and (f.1)(1)(vi)) and the same biennial renewal fee as all licensees of the board (63.P.S. § 1907(e.1)(2) and (f.1)(2)).

However, individuals are not required to obtain or maintain the associate license and may continue to pursue full licenses without first obtaining the associate license. Those who obtain the associate license would be required to pay the application fee and renew their license, which would require completion of 30 clock hours of CE, including 2 hours of training in child abuse recognition. Additionally, MFT supervisors will have additional methods to meet supervisor educational training requirements. Supervisors for all professions under the board may satisfy the training requirements through 6 hours of CE on clinical supervision, a graduate level course specific to supervision or a clinical supervisor certification program. Individuals who satisfy the supervisor educational training through CE hours may apply the 6 clock hours towards the required 30 clock hours; therefore, the board does not anticipate additional costs for licensees.

The board has been accepting and processing associate licensure applications since the effective date of Act 4 of 2024, March 28, 2024. Since that effective date, the board has received approximately 3,189 associate level licensure applications.

(18) Explain how the benefits of the regulation outweigh any cost and adverse effects.

As previously discussed, the associate licenses will enhance access to mental health services by increasing employment opportunities for these professions. This regulation will help ensure that AMFTs and associate professional counselors are properly trained and pursuing full licensure while engaging with patients. Further, this regulation will support emerging professionals who are pursuing licensure as an MFT or professional counselor. The associate license provides these professionals with a formalized way to practice while they accumulate the necessary experience to obtain full licensure. The citizens of this Commonwealth will benefit from the enhanced workforce and growth in available professionals while still having assurance of a level of competence. Like licensees, applicants and individuals who receive care from licensees, and small businesses who employ licensees will benefit by clear and updated regulations relating to the licensure and practice of associate level professionals. Also, individuals are not required to obtain or maintain the associate license and may continue to pursue full licensure without obtaining the associate license.

For associate licensee applicants, completing the mandatory child abuse recognition and reporting training will not have a negative fiscal impact if the applicant chooses a free training course. Requiring licensees to take this training will have a positive impact on the profession and for citizens in this Commonwealth because AMFTs and associate professional counselors will be educated on recognizing child abuse and will also have specific training on how to report child abuse in this Commonwealth. This is a mandatory statutory requirement for all licensees of the board.

Concerning amendments for supervisor standards, the rulemaking will put safeguards in place for supervisees, without being overly burdensome, to ensure proper supervision by supervisors. Supervisors would be required to obtain supervisor educational training which can be satisfied by completing 6 hours of CE related to clinical supervision, however, these hours may be attributed towards the required 30 clock hours; therefore, the board does not anticipate additional costs for licensees. For the MFT profession, the supervisory requirements will be less burdensome because the rulemaking allows for a variety of methods to satisfy the supervisor educational training, including the approved supervisor designation by AAMFT, completion of 6 hours of CE, a graduate level course in supervision or completion of clinical supervisor certification programs.

There are no adverse effects identified with this rulemaking. As for businesses, small or otherwise, they could avoid the costs associated with the rulemaking by requiring employees to pay for their own licensure and associated costs.

(19) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **regulated community** associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

An individual applying for licensure as an AMFT or associate professional counselor will incur some costs, including paying the $75 application fee, $95 for subsequent biennial renewal applications and the costs associated with meeting educational requirements for licensure. These are the same fees as other licenses regulated under the board. Since the effective date of Act 4 of 2024, the board had received approximately 3,189 associate level licensure applications and estimates it will receive approximately 2,139 renewals each biennial renewal period. As of June 2026, the total costs incurred for initial associate application fees was $239,175 and the board estimates it will receive approximately $203,205 in associate renewal application fees. Since Act 4 of 2024 has only been effective for less than 3 full years, the following estimates are impacted by the limited sample period and number of associate applicants. Based upon this information, the board estimates a possible 1,322 associate licensure applications per year and approximately 2,139 associate renewal applications biennially. This would result in approximate costs of

initial associate applications in the amount of $99,150 (1,322 initial applications x $75 initial fee) annually and approximately $203,205 (2,139 renewal applications x $95 renewal fee) biennially for renewal applications should the current count in the first full biennium remain consistent in subsequent years.

The board estimates the cost of CE to be approximately $15 to $35 per credit. While these costs vary based on the source and model for CE services, as some CE providers offer unlimited hours for a yearly subscription fee that may amount to less than an average cost presented, for the purposes of calculating an estimate of the approximate CE costs in this rulemaking an average cost of $25 per credit is used. Thus the board estimates the costs to obtain 30 hours of CE for associate license renewal, at an average cost of $25 per credit, to be approximately $750. As detailed previously, completing the mandatory child abuse recognition and reporting training will not have a cost if the applicant chooses a free training course. Again, these requirements apply to all licensees of the board.

It should be noted that the 2025 renewal of associate licenses for the first renewal were only required to complete 1 hour in suicide prevention and 2 hours in child abuse recognition and reporting training from an approved provider. This was the first renewal period since the effective date of Act 4 of 2024.

For MFT licensees seeking to become a supervisor, there would be savings to the regulated community due to allowing various ways to satisfy the required educational supervisor training, including the option of completing 6 hours of CE. Under the existing regulations, an MFT has to obtain the AAMFT designation as an approved supervisor. The application processing fee for AAMFT designation (non-refundable and includes initial dues) costs $200 with subsequent dues for the approved supervisor designation costing $100 annually. The AAMFT 30-hour supervisor training course costs AAMFT members $750 and non-members $850. Under the regulations, supervisors may satisfy supervisor educational training through 6 hours of CE related to supervision, however, these hours may be attributed towards the required 30 clock hours; therefore, the board does not anticipate additional costs for licensees on this provision. That could amount to savings totaling $950-$1,050 per supervisor approval in startup costs and $100 savings per supervisor annually to the regulated community if the CE pathway is chosen for supervisor education. The board does not grant supervisory certificates or licenses, but instead provides within its regulations qualifications and standards for supervisors.

Below are cost estimates for the application and biennial renewal fee and CE hours for AMFT and associate professional counselor licenses:

Applicants for AMFT and associate professional counselor licenses : $75 initial application fee per applicant, multiplied by 1,322 applicants = $99,150 annually.

Biennial renewal for AMFT and associate professional counselor licenses: $95 renewal application fee + $750 (30 CE credits x $25 per credit) = $845 per applicant, multiplied by 2,139 total possible applicants biennially = $1,807,455 biennially.

During the first full year after the effective date of Act 4 of 2024, the board received approximately 1,322 associate level licensure applications. Should this count remain consistent in following years, the board could expect approximate costs to the regulated community to be $99,150 annually. If fewer than 1,322 applicants apply for associate level licensure under Act 4 of 2024 in a given year, then the combined annual costs would be lower.

For biennial renewal applications on associate level licenses under Act 4 of 2024, the costs to the regulated community would be a possible $1,807,455 biennially if all the licensees renew. If associate licensees

completed the experience requirements for full licensure or chose not to renew associate licenses while still pursing requirements for full licensure under the board's existing licensing provisions, then obviously the combined biennial total would be lower. Also, associate licenses are eligible only for no more than three renewals, which would also cause a rotation to costs depending on the date the associate license was issued. As stated previously, these application fees and CE requirements are the same for other licensees under the board.

(20) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **local governments** associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

The regulation would not result in costs or savings to local government.

(21) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **state government** associated with the implementation of the regulation, including any legal, accounting, or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

There are no other costs or saving to State government associated with compliance with the rulemaking.

(22) For each of the groups and entities identified in items (19)-(21) above, submit a statement of legal, accounting or consulting procedures and additional reporting, recordkeeping or other paperwork, including copies of forms or reports, which will be required for implementation of the regulation and an explanation of measures which have been taken to minimize these requirements.

Applicants for licensure as an AMFT and associate professional counselor will be required to provide a written supervision plan for experience as prepared with their supervisor. This regulation provides specific criteria that must be included, including a description of the work setting; a detailed job description of supervisee, including the nature of supervisee duties and responsibilities; a detailed description of the supervisor's responsibilities and qualifications; identification of each location where client/patient contact will occur; identification of each location where supervision will occur; and frequency of supervision planned. Requiring a written supervision plan will help ensure that supervision is purposeful, effective and consistent with licensure requirements. Currently, supervisors are already required to establish objectives to be achieved by the supervisee during supervision and many supervisors already utilize written plans or even contracts with supervisees. Should an associate licensee obtain a new supervisor, the associate licensee would be required to notify the board and provide the resume or curriculum vitae for the new supervisor. Under the final rulemaking, supervisors are required to provide supervisees with a current resume. The board does not believe these requirements will create a burden to applicants, but rather, will provide for consistent standards.

(22a) Are forms required for implementation of the regulation?

Yes, applicants are required to submit an online application for initial licensure and renewals, similar to the forms already used by other board licensees.

(22b) If forms are required for implementation of the regulation, **attach copies of the forms here.** If your agency uses electronic forms, provide links to each form or a detailed description of the information required to be reported. **Failure to attach forms, provide links, or provide a detailed description of the information to be reported will constitute a faulty delivery of the regulation.**

The board has been processing initial applications for associate level licenses since the effective date of Act 4 of 2024. At that time, the board-created applications are similar to existing initial and renewal application forms the board uses for its other licenses.

The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (bureau) uses an online platform for the submission of applications for licensure and renewal through the Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS), which also encompasses licensure and renewal applications for AMFTs and associate professional counselors. Within the online platform, applicants are asked a series of questions and required to pay the application fee ($75 for initial and $95 for renewal application). For the initial application, applicants are asked the type of license for which they are applying. Applicants who select license type 'associate marriage and family therapist' or 'associate professional counselor' will be directed to submit a copy of their written supervision plan for supervised clinical experience and the resume or curriculum vitae for each licensee who provides supervision. Applicants will be required to indicate and provide proof whether they have satisfied the general requirements for licensure and one of the educational requirements specific to the license type for which they are applying. Applicants are required to indicate whether they have been disciplined by any other jurisdiction in which they are licensed. Applicants with disciplinary history must upload appropriate documentation related to the discipline. As required under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3119, the bureau requires all applicants for health practitioner licenses, including applicants of the board, to submit a full set of fingerprints to PSP for an FBI Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) report (approximately $23) as a requirement for licensure.

For renewal applications, applicants will be required to indicate whether they have satisfied the CE requirements for license renewal and other requirements typical of all current board licensees. Applicants are required to indicate whether they have been disciplined by the jurisdiction in which they are licensed or any other jurisdiction. Applicants with disciplinary history must upload appropriate documentation related to the discipline.

The board has attached sample applications which represent the electronic licensure of AMFT or associate professional counselor initial and renewal applications. The board has also attached the amended Completion of Verification of Supervised Clinical Experience forms that reflect supervisory amendments in this rulemaking. (See Attachment "B".)

(23) In the table below, provide an estimate of the fiscal savings and costs associated with implementation and compliance for the regulated community, local government, and state government for the current year and five subsequent years.

| | Current FY 26-27 | FY +1 27-28 | FY +2 28-29 | FY +3 29-30 | FY +4 30-31 | FY +5 31-32 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SAVINGS:** | | | | | | |
| **Regulated Community** | $950-1,050 per supervisor | $1,050-1,150 per supervisor | $1,050-1,150 per supervisor | $1,050-1,150 per supervisor | $1,050-1,150 per supervisor | $1,050-1,150 per supervisor |
| **Local Government** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **State Government** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Total Savings** | $1,050-1,150 | $1,050-1,150 | $1,050-1,150 | $1,050-1,150 | $1,050-1,150 | $1,050-1,150 |
| **COSTS:** | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Regulated Community** | $99,150 (Initial apps) | $99,150 (Initial apps) $1,807,455 (initial renewals). | $99,150 (Initial apps) | $99,150 (Initial apps) $1,807,455 (initial renewals). | $99,150 (Initial apps) | $99,150 (Initial apps) $1,807,455 (initial renewals). |
| **Local Government** | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| **State Government** | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| **Total Costs** | $99,150 | $99,150 (Initial apps) $1,807,455 (initial renewals). | $99,150 (Initial apps) | $99,150 (Initial apps) $1,807,455 (initial renewals). | $99,150 (Initial apps) | $99,150 (Initial apps) $1,807,455 (initial renewals). |
| **REVENUE LOSSES:** | | | | | | |
| **Regulated Community** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Local Government** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **State Government** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Total Revenue Losses** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

(23a) Provide the past three year expenditure history for programs affected by the regulation.

| **Program** | **FY -3 2023-2024 (actual)** | **FY -2 2024-2025 (actual)** | **FY -1 2025-2026 (actual)** | **Current FY 2026-2027 (budgeted)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors | $2,303,884 | $3,204,752 | $3,549,809 | $3,591,500 |

(24) For any regulation that may have an adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), provide an economic impact statement that includes the following:

(a) An identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation.
(b) The projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs required for compliance with the proposed regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record.
(c) A statement of probable effect on impacted small businesses.
(d) A description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulation.

Responses:

(a) The board does not track where licensees are employed; therefore, it does not know how many small businesses would be impacted. The board does not anticipate any adverse fiscal impact.
(b) There are no projected reporting or recordkeeping costs required for compliance. There are no additional administrative costs required for compliance.
(c) The probable effect on impacted small businesses would be a positive one in that small businesses who employ licensees will benefit by clear and updated regulations relating to the licensure and practice of associate level professionals.
(d) The board did not consider any alternative regulatory provisions.

(25) List any special provisions which have been developed to meet the particular needs of affected groups or persons including, but not limited to, minorities, the elderly, small businesses, and farmers.

No special provisions have been developed for any affected groups or persons.

(26) Include a description of any alternative regulatory provisions which have been considered and rejected and a statement that the least burdensome acceptable alternative has been selected.

No alternative regulatory provisions were considered and rejected. The board believes this rulemaking represents the least burdensome acceptable alternative.

(27) In conducting a regulatory flexibility analysis, explain whether regulatory methods were considered that will minimize any adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), including:

a) The establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
b) The establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
c) The consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
d) The establishment of performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the regulation; and
e) The exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the regulation.

Responses:

a) & b) The board did not consider less stringent reporting requirements or deadlines for small businesses or for licensees that work for small businesses. This regulation does not impose additional reporting requirements on small businesses.

c) There are no compliance or reporting requirements that could be consolidated or simplified. The application process is the same whether a particular licensee is employed by a small business or a large business.

d) This regulation does not contain design or operational standards that need to be altered for small businesses.

f) To exclude any licensees from the requirements contained in the regulation based on the size of their employers would not be consistent with the statute or the board's mandate.

(28) If data is the basis for this regulation, please provide a description of the data, explain in detail how the data was obtained, and how it meets the acceptability standard for empirical, replicable and testable data that is supported by documentation, statistics, reports, studies or research. Please submit data or supporting materials with the regulatory package. If the material exceeds 50 pages, please provide it in a searchable electronic format or provide a list of citations and internet links that, where possible, can be accessed in a searchable format in lieu of the actual material. If other data was considered but not used, please explain why that data was determined not to be acceptable.

No data, studies or references were used to justify the regulation.

(29) Include a schedule for review of the regulation including:

A. The length of the public comment period: 30 days

B. The date or dates on which any public meetings or hearings will be held:

No public hearings are scheduled. The board discusses its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

C. The expected date of delivery of the final-form regulation: Fall 2026

D. The expected effective date of the final-form regulation: Upon publication as final.

E. The expected date by which compliance with the final-form regulation will be required: Upon publication as final.

F. The expected date by which required permits, licenses or other approvals must be obtained: N/A

(30) Describe the plan developed for evaluating the continuing effectiveness of the regulations after its implementation.

The board continually reviews the efficacy of its regulations as part of its annual review process under Executive Order 1996-1. The board reviews its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled public meetings. The board will meet on the following remaining dates in 2026: October 6 and November 17. More information can be found on the board's website.

# ATTACHMENT "A"

## 16A-6927 Comments from Public on Rulemaking

| # | | Name | Title | Company | Address | Email |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | Harshal Dear | Pennsylvania Chapter Lead | Kayden's Korner and National Safe Parents Organization | | harshal.s.dear@gmail.com |
| 2 | | Roger Smith | Chief Advocacy Officer | American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) | 277 S. Washington Street, Suite 210 Alexandria, VA 22314 | ebrown@aamft.org; pbarton@aamft.org; rsmith@aamft.org |

Pursuant to 1 Pa. Code § 307.2, no commentators requested additional information on the final-form regulation.

# ATTACHMENT "B"

**Social Work- Associate Professional Counselor- Application Initial**



**BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**P. O. Box 2649**

**Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649**

# APPLICANT INFORMATION

| PERSONAL INFORMATION | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Last Name | | | | First Name | | | |
| Middle Name | | | | Suffix | | | |
| Full Name | | | | | | | |
| SSN | | Date Of Birth | | Age | | Gender | |

| ADDRESS DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Street Address | | | |
| City/State/Zip | | | |
| County | | Country | |

| CONTACT DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Phone number | | Mobile Phone number | |
| Primary Email Address | | Secondary Email Address | |

| EDUCATION DETAILS | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| School Name | School Type | School Address | Degree | Major | Attended From | Attended To | Graduation Date |
| | | | | | | | |

| CHECKLIST ITEMS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Checklist name | Status | Submitted Date | Expiration Date |
| Application | | | |
| Application Fee | | | |
| Child Abuse CE | | | |
| Databank Report | | | |
| Educational Transcripts | | | |
| FBI Background Check | | | |
| Letter of Good Standing (LOGS) | | | |
| Resume of Supervisor(s) | | | |
| Resume of Supervisor(s) - Judd Hultman | | | |
| Resume of Supervisor(s) - Sara Kahler | | | |
| Supervision Plan | | | |

| LEGAL QUESTIONS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Questions** | | **Answer** | **Document Uploaded** | **File Name** |
| 1 | Do you hold or have you ever held a license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice in any health-related profession in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 2 | Please provide the profession and state or jurisdiction. | | | |
| 3 | Have you had disciplinary action taken against a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice a profession or occupation issued to you in any state or jurisdiction or have you agreed to voluntary surrender in lieu of discipline? | | | |
| 4 | Do you currently have any disciplinary charges pending against your professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 5 | Have you withdrawn an application for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration, had an application denied or refused, or for disciplinary reasons agreed not to apply or reapply for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 6 | Do you currently have any criminal charges pending and unresolved in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 7 | Have you ever been found guilty of immoral or unprofessional conduct? | | | |
| 8 | Have you ever violated standards of professional practice or conduct? | | | |
| 9 | Are you currently suffering from any condition for which you are not being appropriately treated that impairs your judgment or that would otherwise adversely affect your ability to practice (Social Work-Associate Professional Counselor) in a competent, ethical, and professional manner? | | | |
| 10 | Have you ever had provider privileges denied, revoked, suspended or restricted by a Medical Assistance agency, Medicare, third party payor or another authority? | | | |
| 11 | Have you ever had practice privileges denied, revoked, suspended or restricted by a hospital or any health care facility? | | | |
| 12 | Have you ever been charged by a hospital, university, or research facility with violating research protocols, falsifying research, or engaging in other research misconduct? | | | |

| STANDARD QUESTIONS | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Questions** | | **Answer** |
| 1 | Will any of your supporting documents be submitted under another name or names? | |
| 2 | First Name | |
| 3 | Middle Name | |
| 4 | Last Name | |
| 5 | Therefore, any of the following officially issued government documents should be accepted for the purpose of changing a licensee's name in records maintained by the various professional and occupational licensing boards and commissions:<br>1. A birth certificate.<br>2. A marriage certificate (not a marriage license).<br>3. A divorce decree.<br>4. An official name change document issued by a court.<br>5. A passport.<br>6. A social security card.<br>7. A Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID card.<br>8. A driver's license or official non-driver ID card issued by another state that complies with the federal REAL ID Act requirements (signified with a star on the front). | |
| 6 | Are you a servicemember, veteran, or military spouse? | |
| 7 | Please upload documentation demonstrating your status as a Servicemember, veteran or military spouse. | |

| SUPERVISOR DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Supervisor Name** | **Supervisor License No** | **Supervisor Profession/License Type** | State |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| PA VETERANS REGISTRY | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Questions** | | **Answer** |
| 1 | Have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces? | |
| 2 | Thank you for your service. Would you like to register with the PA Veterans Registry? The PA Veterans Registry provides veterans with information about federal, state and local benefits, programs and services that are available to Pennsylvania veterans and links veterans with resources that can provide assistance. Registration is quick and easy, and provides the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) with a way to contact you regarding the benefits and services you may be eligible for. If you check "Yes," you will receive an email with instructions to assist you in registering. | |

| CONFIRMATION | |
|---|---|
| ☑ | Any fees paid are non refundable. ( 02/26/2025 10:57:35 ) |

**Social Work- Associate Professional Counselor- Application Renewal ()**



**BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**P. O. Box 2649**

**Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649**

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

| PERSONAL INFORMATION | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Last Name | | | | First Name | | | |
| Middle Name | | | | Suffix | | | |
| Full Name | | | | | | | |
| SSN | | Date Of Birth | | Age | | Gender | |

| ADDRESS DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Street Address | | | |
| City/State/Zip | | | |
| County | | Country | |

| CONTACT DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Phone number | | Mobile Phone number | |
| Primary Email Address | | Secondary Email Address | |

| CHECKLIST ITEMS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Checklist name | Status | Submitted Date | Expiration Date |
| Application | | | |
| Application Fee | | | |
| Child Abuse CE | | | |

| LEGAL QUESTIONS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Questions** | | **Answer** | **Document Uploaded** | **File Name** |
| 1 | Since your initial application or last renewal, whichever is later, have you had disciplinary action taken against a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice a profession or occupation issued to you in any state or jurisdiction or have you agreed to voluntary surrender in lieu of discipline? | | | |
| 2 | Do you currently have any disciplinary charges pending against your professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 3 | Since your initial application or last renewal, whichever is later, have you withdrawn an application for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration, had an application denied or refused, or for disciplinary reasons agreed not to apply or reapply for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 4 | Since your initial application or last renewal, whichever is later, have you withdrawn an application for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration, had an application denied or refused, or for disciplinary reasons agreed not to apply or reapply for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 5 | Since your initial application or your last renewal, whichever is later, have you had provider privileges denied, revoked, suspended or restricted by a Medical Assistance agency, Medicare, third party payor or another authority? | | | |
| 6 | Since your initial application or your last renewal, whichever is later, have you had practice privileges denied, revoked, suspended, or restricted by a hospital or any health care facility? | | | |
| 7 | Since your initial application or your last renewal, whichever is later, have you been charged by a hospital, university, or research facility with violating research protocols, falsifying research, or engaging in other research misconduct? | | | |
| 8 | Since your initial application or last renewal, whichever is later, are you currently suffering from any condition for which you are not being appropriately treated that impairs your judgment or that would otherwise adversely affect your ability to practice (Social Work-Associate Professional Counselor) in a competent, ethical, and professional manner? | | | |

| STANDARD QUESTIONS | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Questions** | | **Answer** |
| 1 | Have you met your continuing education requirements? | |
| 2 | Are you submitting a name change with this renewal? | |
| 3 | First Name | |
| 4 | Middle Name | |
| 5 | Last Name | |
| 6 | You must submit a copy of a legal document verifying the name(s). The following are acceptable name change verification documents:<br>(1) A birth certificate.<br>(2) A marriage certificate (not a marriage license).<br>(3) Divorce decree.<br>(4) An official name change document issued by a court.<br>(5) A passport.<br>(6) A social security card.<br>(7) A Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID card.<br>(8) A driver's license or official non-driver ID card issued by another state that complies with the federal REAL ID Act requirements (signified with a star on the front) | |
| 7 | With the exception of the one you are currently renewing, do you hold, or have you ever held, a license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice a profession or occupation in any state or jurisdiction? | |
| 8 | Are you a servicemember, veteran, or military spouse? | |

| Licenses/Certificates/Permits/Registrations in Any State/Jurisdiction | |
|---|---|
| **Profession** | **State/Jurisdiction** |
| | |

| PA VETERANS REGISTRY | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Questions** | | **Answer** |
| 1 | Have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces? | |
| 2 | Thank you for your service. Would you like to register with the PA Veterans Registry? The PA Veterans Registry provides veterans with information about federal, state and local benefits, programs and services that are available to Pennsylvania veterans and links veterans with resources that can provide assistance. Registration is quick and easy, and provides the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) with a way to contact you regarding the benefits and services you may be eligible for. If you check "Yes," you will receive an email with instructions to assist you in registering. | |

| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DUTY TO SELF-REPORT DISCIPLINARY CONDUCT AND CERTAIN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY | |
|---|---|
| ☑ | **I hereby acknowledge that in addition to any existing reporting requirement required by a specific board or commission, I am REQUIRED pursuant to Act 6 of 2018 to NOTIFY the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs WITHIN 30 DAYS of the occurrence of any of the following:**<br>(1) A disciplinary action taken against me by a licensing board or agency in another jurisdiction;<br>(2) A finding or verdict of guilt, an admission of guilt, a plea of nolo contendere, probation without verdict, a disposition in lieu of trial or an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) of any felony or misdemeanor offense in a criminal proceeding. **I further acknowledge that failure to comply with these mandatory reporting requirements may subject me to disciplinary action by the Board.** I acknowledge my understanding that to self-report a disciplinary action or criminal matter as set forth above, I may log in to the Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS) at www.pals.pa.gov and select "Mandatory Reporting by Licensee" under the heading "Your Licenses."<br><br>( 02/16/2025 18:54:34 ) |

| CONFIRMATION | |
|---|---|
| ☑ | Any fees paid are non refundable. ( 02/16/2025 18:54:34 ) |

**State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors**

**2525 N 7th Street**

**Harrisburg PA 17110**

**State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors**

**P O BOX 2649**

**Harrisburg PA 17105-2649**

**BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS**

# VERIFICATION OF SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The completed verification of supervised clinical experience forms must be completed by the supervisor and the supervisor must email the completed forms to the Board office at st-socialwork@pa.gov **OR** the supervisor may mail the forms to the Board Office.

**The Board will not accept the verification of supervised clinical experience forms provided by the applicant.**

Your qualified supervisor, as defined in Section 49.3 of the regulations, must complete the following verification of supervised clinical experience forms verifying completion of 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience

PART A. Supervisor Qualifications and Verification
PART B. Report of Supervised Clinical Experience Hours

The information on these forms must be provided by the applicant's supervisor that provided supervision for clinical experience hours completed towards meeting the 3,000 total hours of supervised clinical experience defined in Section 49.13(b) and Section 49.14 of the regulations. This verification of supervised clinical experience forms should be photocopied and then completed by each supervisor that provided supervision towards the 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience.

**Hours required:** 3,000 total hours of supervised clinical experience that meet the requirements defined in Sections 49.13(b) of the Regulations. 1,500 hours must be face-to-face direct client contact in person*. The other 1,500 hours may be other non-direct clinical work determined by the supervisor.

*For the purposes of § 49.13(b), supervision hours accumulated "in person" are not limited to those acquired while being physically present in the same room. Technological advances have enabled individuals to communicate in real-time, regardless of their geographic proximity to one-another. Therefore, the Board considers "in person" supervision to be met if a HIPAA-compliant electronic platform is used that allows for synchronous audio and video communication between the supervisor and supervisee. This would not include supervision by telephone, email, instant messaging, online chat, or other non-secure electronic communications that do not include real-time (synchronous) video and audio communications. The setting in which the supervisor and supervisee are located when using electronic supervision must be professional and secure and may not be conducted from public locations such as coffee shops, libraries, or other locations where inadvertent disclosures of confidential information could occur.

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **NAME:** | Last | First | Middle |
| **OTHER NAME:** | | | |
| **DATE OF BIRTH :** | | **LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN:** | |
| **ADDRESS:** | | | |
| **CITY / STATE / ZIP:** | | | |

## PART A: Supervisor's qualifications: Please check all that apply.

- ❑ I (supervisor) hold an active license as a professional counselor in the state where the supervision occurred **and** have 5 years of post- master's degree experience within the last 10 years as a professional counselor (Section 49.3(a)(1)).

- ❑ I (supervisor) hold an active license in a related field in the state where the supervision occurred **and** have a master's or doctoral degree in that related field. Additionally, I (supervisor) have 5 years of post-master's experience within the last 10 years in that related field (Section 49.3(a)(2)).

- ❑ I (supervisor) have practiced as a professional counselor **and** I have 5 years of experience within the last 10 years as a professional counselor (Section 49.3(a)(3)). *Only for applicant experience completed prior to January 1, 2006.*

I (supervisor) confirm that I have completed or intend to complete one of the following supervisor educational trainings by <date 2 years from effective date of subsection> as required under Section 49.3(b). Select one:

- ❑ Graduate level course specific to supervision
- ❑ A clinical supervisor certification program
- ❑ At least 6 continuing education clock hours on clinical supervision.

I (supervisor) confirm that I maintained an active state license throughout the entirety of the time I provided direct supervision to this individual.

I (supervisor) confirm that I have reviewed and understand the entirety of Sections 49.13(b) and 49.14 of the Pennsylvania Board Regulations.

I verify that the statements in this verification of Clinical Supervised Experience are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that false statements are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. Section 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities) and may result in the suspension or revocation of my license. I also verify that I have complied with Section 49.14 of Title 49 Standards for supervisors.

Supervisor's Name: _____
Please Print

Qualifying State Board License Number: _____

State of Licensure – Pennsylvania/Other: _____

## PART B:

**Dates of supervised experience worked under my supervision:**

**From:** _____/ _____/ _____ **To:** _____/ _____/ _____
month day year month day year

**Total number of clinical hours worked under my supervision:** _____

I verify that _____ complied with the requirements of Section
Applicant's Printed Name

49.13(b)of the Regulations. I further verify that the supervised clinical experience verified on these forms was verified based on my records and will provide the records upon request by the Board.

| Signature of Supervisor | Date of Signature |
| --- | --- |

**Social Work- Associate Marriage and Family Therapist- Application Initial**



**BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**P. O. Box 2649**

**Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649**

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

| PERSONAL INFORMATION | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Last Name | | | | First Name | | | |
| Middle Name | | | | Suffix | | | |
| Full Name | | | | | | | |
| SSN | | Date Of Birth | | Age | | Gender | |

| ADDRESS DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Street Address | | | |
| City/State/Zip | | | |
| County | | Country | |

| CONTACT DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Phone number | | Mobile Phone number | |
| Primary Email Address | | Secondary Email Address | |

| EDUCATION DETAILS | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| School Name | School Type | School Address | Degree | Major | Attended From | Attended To | Graduation Date |
| | | | | | | | |

| CHECKLIST ITEMS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Checklist name | Status | Submitted Date | Expiration Date |
| AAMFT Supervisor Verification | | | |
| Application | | | |
| Application Fee | | | |
| Child Abuse CE | | | |
| Databank Report | | | |
| Educational Transcripts | | | |
| Exam Eligibility | | | |
| FBI Background Check | | | |
| Letter of Good Standing (LOGS) | | | |
| Resume of Supervisor(s) | | | |
| Resume of Supervisor(s) - Christa Bush | | | |
| Resume of Supervisor(s) - Jennifer Guido | | | |
| Supervision Plan | | | |

| LEGAL QUESTIONS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Questions** | | **Answer** | **Document Uploaded** | **File Name** |
| 1 | Do you hold or have you ever held a license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice in any health-related profession in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 2 | Please provide the profession and state or jurisdiction. | | | |
| 3 | Have you had disciplinary action taken against a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice a profession or occupation issued to you in any state or jurisdiction or have you agreed to voluntary surrender in lieu of discipline? | | | |
| 4 | Do you currently have any disciplinary charges pending against your professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 5 | Have you withdrawn an application for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration, had an application denied or refused, or for disciplinary reasons agreed not to apply or reapply for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 6 | Do you currently have any criminal charges pending and unresolved in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 7 | Have you ever been found guilty of immoral or unprofessional conduct? | | | |
| 8 | Have you ever violated standards of professional practice or conduct? | | | |
| 9 | Are you currently suffering from any condition for which you are not being appropriately treated that impairs your judgment or that would otherwise adversely affect your ability to practice (Social Work-Associate Marriage and Family Therapist) in a competent, ethical, and professional manner? | | | |
| 10 | Have you ever had provider privileges denied, revoked, suspended or restricted by a Medical Assistance agency, Medicare, third party payor or another authority? | | | |
| 11 | Have you ever had practice privileges denied, revoked, suspended or restricted by a hospital or any health care facility? | | | |
| 12 | Have you ever been charged by a hospital, university, or research facility with violating research protocols, falsifying research, or engaging in other research misconduct? | | | |

| STANDARD QUESTIONS | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Questions** | | **Answer** |
| 1 | Will any of your supporting documents be submitted under another name or names? | |
| 2 | First Name | |
| 3 | Middle Name | |
| 4 | Last Name | |
| 5 | Therefore, any of the following officially issued government documents should be accepted for the purpose of changing a licensee's name in records maintained by the various professional and occupational licensing boards and commissions:<br><br>1. A birth certificate.<br>2. A marriage certificate (not a marriage license).<br>3. A divorce decree.<br>4. An official name change document issued by a court.<br>5. A passport.<br>6. A social security card.<br>7. A Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID card.<br>8. A driver's license or official non-driver ID card issued by another state that complies with the federal REAL ID Act requirements (signified with a star on the front). | |
| 6 | Are you a servicemember, veteran, or military spouse? | |
| 7 | Please upload documentation demonstrating your status as a Servicemember, veteran or military spouse. | |

| SUPERVISOR DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Supervisor Name** | **Supervisor License No** | **Supervisor Profession/License Type** | State |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| PA VETERANS REGISTRY | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Questions** | | **Answer** |
| 1 | Have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces? | |
| 2 | Thank you for your service. Would you like to register with the PA Veterans Registry? The PA Veterans Registry provides veterans with information about federal, state and local benefits, programs and services that are available to Pennsylvania veterans and links veterans with resources that can provide assistance. Registration is quick and easy, and provides the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) with a way to contact you regarding the benefits and services you may be eligible for. If you check "Yes," you will receive an email with instructions to assist you in registering. | |

| CONFIRMATION | |
|---|---|
| ☑ | Any fees paid are non refundable. ( 07/24/2025 13:07:25 ) |

**Social Work- Associate Marriage and Family Therapist- Application Renewal ()**



**BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**P. O. Box 2649**

**Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649**

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

| PERSONAL INFORMATION | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Last Name** | | | | **First Name** | | | |
| **Middle Name** | | | | **Suffix** | | | |
| **Full Name** | | | | | | | |
| **SSN** | | **Date Of Birth** | | **Age** | | **Gender** | |

| ADDRESS DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Street Address** | | | |
| **City/State/Zip** | | | |
| **County** | | **Country** | |

| CONTACT DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Phone number** | | **Mobile Phone number** | |
| **Primary Email Address** | | **Secondary Email Address** | |

| CHECKLIST ITEMS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Checklist name** | **Status** | **Submitted Date** | **Expiration Date** |
| Application | | | |
| Application Fee | | | |
| Child Abuse CE | | | |

## LEGAL QUESTIONS

| | Questions | Answer | Document Uploaded | File Name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Since your initial application or last renewal, whichever is later, have you had disciplinary action taken against a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice a profession or occupation issued to you in any state or jurisdiction or have you agreed to voluntary surrender in lieu of discipline? | | | |
| 2 | Do you currently have any disciplinary charges pending against your professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 3 | Since your initial application or last renewal, whichever is later, have you withdrawn an application for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration, had an application denied or refused, or for disciplinary reasons agreed not to apply or reapply for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction? | | | |
| 4 | Since your initial application or your last renewal, whichever is later, have you had provider privileges denied, revoked, suspended or restricted by a Medical Assistance agency, Medicare, third party payor or another authority? | | | |
| 5 | Since your initial application or your last renewal, whichever is later, have you had practice privileges denied, revoked, suspended, or restricted by a hospital or any health care facility? | | | |
| 6 | Since your initial application or your last renewal, whichever is later, have you been charged by a hospital, university, or research facility with violating research protocols, falsifying research, or engaging in other research misconduct? | | | |
| 7 | Since your initial application or last renewal, whichever is later, are you currently suffering from any condition for which you are not being appropriately treated that impairs your judgment or that would otherwise adversely affect your ability to practice (Social Work-Associate Marriage and Family Therapist) in a competent, ethical, and professional manner? | | | |

## STANDARD QUESTIONS

| | Questions | Answer |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Have you met your continuing education requirements? | |
| 2 | Are you submitting a name change with this renewal? | |
| 3 | First Name | |
| 4 | Middle Name | |
| 5 | Last Name | |
| 6 | You must submit a copy of a legal document verifying the name(s). The following are acceptable name change verification documents:<br>(1) A birth certificate.<br>(2) A marriage certificate (not a marriage license).<br>(3) Divorce decree.<br>(4) An official name change document issued by a court.<br>(5) A passport.<br>(6) A social security card.<br>(7) A Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID card.<br>(8) A driver's license or official non-driver ID card issued by another state that complies with the federal REAL ID Act requirements (signified with a star on the front) | |
| 7 | With the exception of the one you are currently renewing, do you hold, or have you ever held, a license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice a profession or occupation in any state or jurisdiction? | |
| 8 | Are you a servicemember, veteran, or military spouse? | |

| PA VETERANS REGISTRY | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Questions** | | **Answer** |
| 1 | Have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces? | |
| 2 | Thank you for your service. Would you like to register with the PA Veterans Registry? The PA Veterans Registry provides veterans with information about federal, state and local benefits, programs and services that are available to Pennsylvania veterans and links veterans with resources that can provide assistance. Registration is quick and easy, and provides the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) with a way to contact you regarding the benefits and services you may be eligible for. If you check “Yes,” you will receive an email with instructions to assist you in registering. | |

| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DUTY TO SELF-REPORT DISCIPLINARY CONDUCT AND CERTAIN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY | |
|---|---|
| ☑ | **I hereby acknowledge that in addition to any existing reporting requirement required by a specific board or commission, I am REQUIRED pursuant to Act 6 of 2018 to NOTIFY the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs WITHIN 30 DAYS of the occurrence of any of the following:**<br>(1) A disciplinary action taken against me by a licensing board or agency in another jurisdiction;<br>(2) A finding or verdict of guilt, an admission of guilt, a plea of nolo contendere, probation without verdict, a disposition in lieu of trial or an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) of any felony or misdemeanor offense in a criminal proceeding. **I further acknowledge that failure to comply with these mandatory reporting requirements may subject me to disciplinary action by the Board.** I acknowledge my understanding that to self-report a disciplinary action or criminal matter as set forth above, I may log in to the Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS) at www.pals.pa.gov and select “Mandatory Reporting by Licensee” under the heading “Your Licenses.”<br><br>( 02/23/2025 15:29:25 ) |

| CONFIRMATION | |
|---|---|
| ☑ | Any fees paid are non refundable. ( 02/23/2025 15:29:25 ) |

**State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors**

**2525 N 7th Street**

**Harrisburg PA 17110**

**State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors**

**P O BOX 2649**

**Harrisburg PA 17105-2649**

**BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS**

# VERIFICATION OF SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The completed verification of supervised clinical experience forms must be completed by the supervisor and the supervisor must email the completed forms to the Board office at st-socialwork@pa.gov **OR** the supervisor may mail the forms to the Board Office. The supervisor must sign over the sealed flap of the envelope for the forms to be accepted via mail.

**The Board will not accept the verification of supervised clinical experience forms provided by the applicant.**

Your qualified supervisor, as defined in Section 48.3 of the regulations, must complete the following verification of supervised clinical experience forms verifying completion of 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience

PART A. Supervisor Qualifications and Verification
PART B. Report of Supervised Clinical Experience Hours

The information on these forms must be provided by the applicant's supervisor that provided supervision for clinical experience hours completed towards meeting the 3,000 total hours of supervised clinical experience defined in Section 48.13(b) and Section 48.14 of the regulations. This verification of supervised clinical experience forms should be photocopied and then completed by each supervisor that provided supervision towards the 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience.

**Hours required:** 3,000 total hours of supervised clinical experience that meet the requirements defined in Sections 48.13(b) of the Regulations. 1,500 hours must be face-to-face direct client contact in person*. The other 1,500 hours may be other non-direct clinical work determined by the supervisor.

*For the purposes of § 48.13(b), supervision hours accumulated "in person" are not limited to those acquired while being physically present in the same room. Technological advances have enabled individuals to communicate in real-time, regardless of their geographic proximity to one-another. Therefore, the Board considers "in person" supervision to be met if a HIPAA-compliant electronic platform is used that allows for synchronous audio and video communication between the supervisor and supervisee. This would not include supervision by telephone, email, instant messaging, online chat, or other non-secure electronic communications that do not include real-time (synchronous) video and audio communications. The setting in which the supervisor and supervisee are located when using electronic supervision must be professional and secure and may not be conducted from public locations such as coffee shops, libraries, or other locations where inadvertent disclosures of confidential information could occur.

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **NAME:** | Last | First | Middle |
| **OTHER NAME:** | | | |
| **DATE OF BIRTH :** | | **LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN:** | |
| **ADDRESS:** | | | |
| **CITY / STATE / ZIP:** | | | |

## PART A: Supervisor's qualifications: Please check all that apply.

❑ I (supervisor) hold a current and active license as an MFT in the state where the supervision occurred **and** have 5 years of post-masters experience within the last 10 years as a marriage and family therapist (Section 48.3(a)(1)).

❑ I (supervisor) hold a current and active license in the state where the supervision occurred **and** have at least a master's degree in a related field **and** have 5 years of post-master's experience within the last 10 years in that related field (Section 48.3(a)(2)).

❑ I (supervisor) have practiced as a licensed marriage and family therapist **and** I have completed a 1-semester graduate course in MFT supervision (at least 30 contact hours) or the equivalent. I have 5 years of experience within the last 10 years as an MFT (Section 48.3(a)(3)). *Only for applicant experience completed prior to January 1, 2006.*

I (supervisor) confirm that I have completed or intend to complete one of the following supervisor educational trainings by <date 2 years from effective date of subsection> as required under Section 48.3(b). Select one:

- ❑ Graduate level course specific to supervision
- ❑ A clinical supervisor certification program
- ❑ At least 6 continuing education clock hours on clinical supervision.

I (supervisor) confirm that I maintained an active state license throughout the entirety of the time I provided direct supervision to this individual.

I (supervisor) confirm that I have reviewed and understand the entirety of Sections 48.13(b) and 48.14 of the Pennsylvania Board Regulations.

I verify that the statements in this verification of Clinical Supervised Experience are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that false statements are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. Section 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities) and may result in the suspension or revocation of my license. I also verify that I have complied with Section 48.14 of Title 49 Standards for supervisors.

Supervisor's Name: _____
Please Print

Qualifying State Board License Number: _____

State of Licensure – Pennsylvania/Other: _____

## PART B:

**Dates of supervised experience worked under my supervision:**

**From:** _____/ _____/ _____ **To:** _____/ _____/ _____
month day year month day year

**Total number of clinical hours worked under my supervision:** _____

I verify that _____ complied with the requirements of Section
Applicant's Printed Name

48.13(b)of the Regulations. I further verify that the supervised clinical experience verified on these forms was verified based on my records and will provide the records upon request by the Board.

| Signature of Supervisor | Date of Signature |
| --- | --- |

CDL-1

# FACE SHEET
# FOR FILING DOCUMENTS
# WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

**(Pursuant to Commonwealth Documents Law)**

RECEIVED

Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

October 22, 2026

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

| Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality. Attorney General | Copy below is here by certified to be a true and correct copy of a document issued, prescribed or promulgated by: | Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality. Executive or Independent Agencies. |
|---|---|---|
| BY: _____ (DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL) | State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors (AGENCY) | BY: Cynthia K. Montz (Deputy General Counsel, ~~Chief Counsel, Independent Agency~~) (Strike inapplicable title) |
| _____ DATE OF APPROVAL | DOCUMENT/FISCAL NOTE NO. 16A-6927<br>DATE OF ADOPTION: _____ | October 13, 2026 DATE OF APPROVAL |
| ☐ Check if applicable Copy not approved. Objections attached. | BY: _____ Richard Joseph Behun, PH.D., LPC, NCC,ACS<br>TITLE Chairperson (EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY) | ☐ Check if applicable. No Attorney General approval or objection within 30 days after submission. |

## FINAL RULEMAKING

## COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
## DEPARTMENT OF STATE
## BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS
## STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

**49 PA. CODE, CHAPTERS 47, 48 and 49**

**§§ 47.1a, 47.4; 48.1, 48.3, 48.13a, 48.21, 48.22, 48.23, 48.24, 48.25, 48.32, 48.35, 48.36, 48.38, 48.42, 48.51, 48.52, 48.53, 48.54, 48.55, 48.57, 48.58, 48.71; 49.1, 49.3, 49.13a, 49.21, 49.22, 49.23, 49.24, 49.25, 49.32, 49.35, 49.36, 49.38, 49.42, 49.51, 49.52, 49.53, 49.54, 49.55, 49.57, 49.58 and 49.71.**

**(Associate MFT and PC and Supervision)**

The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors (board) hereby amends Chapters 47—49 (relating to State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors; State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors—Licensure of Marriage and Family Therapists; and State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors—Licensure of Professional Counselors) to read as set forth in Annex A.

*Effective Date*

This rulemaking will be effective upon publication of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

*Statutory Authority*

Section 6 of the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act (act) (63 P.S. § 1906) authorizes the board to pass upon the qualifications and fitness of applicants for licenses and to adopt and revise rules and regulations requiring applicants to pass examinations relating to their qualifications as a prerequisite to the issuance of a license and to adopt and revise such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the act. Section 18(c) of the act (63 P.S. § 1918(c)) provides that all fees required under the act shall be fixed by the board by regulation.

Section 8 of the act of March 28, 2024 (P.L. 11, No. 4) (Act 4 of 2024) directs the board to promulgate regulations to implement the amendments to the act, which provide for the licensure of associate marriage and family therapists (AMFT) and associate professional counselors. Act 4

of 2024 further sets the application fee for associate licenses at $75 (see 63 P.S. § 1907(e.1)(1)(vi) and (f.1)(1)(vi)) and the biennial renewal fee of associate licenses at $95 (see 63 P.S. § 1907(e.1)(2) and (f.1)(2)).

*Background and Need for the Amendments*

Act 4 of 2024 requires the board to promulgate regulations for the licensure of AMFTs and associate professional counselors. By way of background, Act 4 of 2024 was enacted to create licensed AMFT and associate professional counselor credentials for the Commonwealth to add crucial resources for mental health care providers. In this Commonwealth, there are increased incidents of depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts in adults and children. The associate licenses will enhance access to mental health services by increasing employment opportunities for these professions. Associate licenses enhance access to mental health services by increasing employment opportunities for these professions. At least 26 states have established associate licenses for these professions. This rulemaking will help ensure that AMFTs and associate professional counselors are properly trained and pursuing full licensure while engaging with patients. Further, the regulations will support emerging professionals who are pursuing licensure as a marriage and family therapist (MFT) or professional counselor. The associate license provides these professionals with a formalized way to practice while they accumulate the necessary experience to obtain full licensure.

*Summary of Comments and the Board's Response*

Notice of the proposed rulemaking was published at 56 Pa.B. 209 (January 10, 2026). Publication was followed by a 30-day public comment period during which the board received two

public comments. Additionally, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) submitted comments on the proposed rulemaking. The House Professional Licensure Committee (HPLC) and the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee (SCP/PLC) did not submit comments.

The board received public comments from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and from the Pennsylvania Chapter Lead for Kayden's Korner and National Safe Parents Organization (PA Chapter Lead). AAMFT commented that it supports the amendments for supervisors under § 48.3 (relating to qualifications of individuals pursing a marriage and family therapist license). AAMFT acknowledged the importance for supervisors to complete continuing education in supervision prior to serving in this role. AAMFT expressed appreciation for the flexibility offered by allowing this requirement to be met through completion of a graduate-level course in supervision or a clinical supervisor certification program. AAMFT asked the board to include an additional third option for those who have completed the AAMFT Approved Supervisor designation. AAMFT noted that approved supervisors are held to high educational, experiential and supervisory training standards to ensure competent supervision of marriage and family therapists and trainees. This designation requires advanced, specialized training. AAMFT noted that approved supervisors have also been part of the board's requirements for many years and have served the State and its citizens well. The board agrees with this suggestion and AAMFT's position that allowing for this additional flexibility helps preserve a qualified supervisory workforce while maintaining strong public protection. Accordingly, the board amends § 48.3(a) and (b) to reflect that supervisors who have completed the AAMFT Approved Supervisor Designation satisfy the qualification and training requirements for supervisors. In doing so, the board restructured subsection (b) to clarify the requirements for

supervisor training. To maintain consistency within the board's regulations, the board also amended § 49.3 (a) and (b) to reflect that supervisors who have completed an Approved Clinical Supervisor credential from the Center for Credentialing & Education Approved Clinical Supervisor Credential Program satisfy the qualification and training requirements for professional counselor supervisory training.

AAMFT further commented that requiring an associate marriage and family therapist to submit a resume or curriculum vitae for each supervising licensee may be burdensome because the associate licensee may have difficulty obtaining this information from the supervisor. AAMFT suggested that this responsibility be placed on the supervisor instead. Based upon this comment, the board has amended § 48.13a (relating to licensed associate marriage and family therapist) to require the supervising licensee to provide applicants with a current resume or curriculum vitae. For consistency, the board has made the same amendments to § 49.13a (relating to licensed associate professional counselor).

The Pennsylvania Chapter Lead of Kayden's Korner and National Safe Parents Organization (PA Chapter Lead) submitted a comment urging the board to implement provisions relating to Federal Kayden's Law (34 U.S.C § 10446(k)) and the act of April 15, 2024 (P.L. 24, No. 8) (Act 8 of 2024), including training requirements concerning domestic violence and child victimization and prohibiting parent alienation theory/reunification therapy.

Federal Kayden's Law establishes certain child custody standards that states may adopt as a condition of eligibility for specified Federal grant funding. These provisions concern state custody laws, court standards and judicial training, rather than professional licensure requirements. Act 8 of 2024 primarily governs child custody proceedings under 23 Pa.C.S. Chapter 53 (relating

to child custody) and assigns responsibilities to the courts and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). Act 8 amended the Domestic Relations Code governing child custody proceedings and authorizes the AOPC to establish education and training programs for judges and relevant court personnel involved in custody matters, including guardians ad litem, counsel for children, masters and mediators. It did not amend the act or direct the board to adopt additional continuing education or disciplinary requirements.

The purpose of this rulemaking is to update supervision qualifications and implement Act 4 of 2024, which provides for the licensure of AMFTs and associate professional counselors. The requested provisions concerning judges, magisterial district judges and other relevant court personnel, including guardians ad litem, counsel for children, masters and mediators involved in cases of child abuse fall outside the board's authority and outside the scope of this rulemaking. The act does not authorize the board to regulate child custody proceedings or to adopt standards governing court-appointed professionals beyond the board's jurisdiction.

The board appreciates the commentator's advocacy regarding child safety, domestic violence, child abuse and the protection of vulnerable individuals and recognizes the importance of ensuring that mental health professionals receive appropriate education and training in these areas. To the extent the comment requests additional training requirements or practice standards relating to child abuse, the board notes that this rulemaking includes child abuse recognition and reporting training as a condition of licensure and biennial renewal for licensed associate marriage and family therapists and licensed associate professional counselors in §§ 48.58 and 49.58 (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement), consistent with the Child Protective Services Law (23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6301—6386).

Additionally, the board declines the request to amend this final-form rulemaking to prohibit parental alienation theory/reunification therapy. These types of amendments would constitute substantive changes to the standards governing professional conduct and discipline that are beyond the scope and purpose of this rulemaking. The proposed rulemaking did not provide notice that the board was considering amendments to its disciplinary regulations or code of ethics, and adopting such provisions in this final-form rulemaking would enlarge the original purpose of the rulemaking.

Accordingly, because the issues raised in the comment are either outside the board's authority, beyond the scope of this rulemaking or already addressed by existing statutory or regulatory requirements, the board has not amended the final-form rulemaking in response to the comment.

Comments from IRRC

IRRC observed that §§ 47.1a(a)(3), 48.3(a)(3) and 49.3(a)(3) (relating to qualifications for supervisors of individuals pursuing a clinical social work license; qualifications for supervisors of individuals pursing a marriage and family therapist license; and qualifications for supervisors of individuals pursing a professional counselor license) establish criteria applicable only before the dates specified in those provisions and recommended replacing the word "meet" with "met" to clarify that the provisions apply to individuals who satisfied the criteria before those dates. The board agrees and has amended §§ 47.1a(a)(3), 48.3(a)(3), and 49.3(a)(3) as recommended for clarity. Additionally, for clarity, the board amended the headings to reflect qualification and training requirements and also restructured §§ 47.1a(b), 48.3(b), and 49.3(b) to clarify supervisor

educational training requirements. The board also amended § 49.3(a) to require a current and active license, thereby aligning the regulation language with § 48.3 (b).

IRRC also recommended that the board include the statutory definitions of the terms "licensed associate marriage and family therapist" and "licensed associate professional counselor" in the regulations for clarity. The board agrees that including these definitions will provide greater clarity to applicants, licensees and the public. Accordingly, the board has amended the final-form regulation to incorporate the statutory definitions of "licensed associate marriage and family therapist" and "licensed associate professional counselor" in §§ 48.1 and 49.1 (relating to definitions).

*Miscellaneous Clarity Amendments*

The board amended the definition of supervision plan in § 48.1 because the board inadvertently included a reference to § 49.13a(a)(3) (relating to licensed associate professional counselor), which has no bearing on supervision plans within Chapter 48.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rulemaking will have a fiscal impact to individuals applying for the AMFT license and the associate professional counselor license in that they would be required to pay a $75 application fee and a $95 biennial renewal fee. However, individuals are not required to obtain or maintain the associate license and may continue to pursue full licensure without obtaining the associate license. Those who obtain and seek to maintain the associate license may be required to renew their license, which would require completion of 30 clock hours of continuing education. These are the same

clock hours of continuing education required of all board-regulated licensees to renew their licenses. Additionally, supervisors would be required to obtain 6 clock hours of continuing education related to supervision. These hours, however, may be attributed toward the required 30 clock hours; therefore, the board does not anticipate additional costs for licensees.

*Paperwork Requirements*

Individuals applying for the AMFT license or the associate professional counselor license would need to file an application for licensure and keep documentation on file to demonstrate completion of continuing education credit hours. The board has developed an application for licensure. Applicants will also be required to submit a supervisor plan along with the supervisor's resume or curriculum vitae. There should be no other paperwork requirements for the Commonwealth or the regulated community.

*Sunset Date*

The board continuously monitors the cost effectiveness of the board's regulations. Therefore, no sunset date has been assigned.

*Regulatory Review*

Under Section 5(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5(a)), on December 11, 2025, the board submitted a copy of the notice of proposed rulemaking, published at 56 Pa.B. 209 (January 10, 2026) and a copy of a Regulatory Analysis Form to IRRC and the chairpersons of the SCP/PLC and HPLC for review and comment. A copy of this material is available to the public upon request.

Under section 5(c) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5(c)), the board provided IRRC, SCP/PLC and HPLC with copies of the comments received on the regulation during the public comment period, as well as other documents when requested. Two public comments were received. In preparing this final-form rulemaking, the board has considered all comments received from IRRC and the public. The board received no comments from the SCP/PLC or HPLC.

Under section 5.1(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(a)), on October 22, 2026, the board delivered this final-form rulemaking to IRRC, the SCP/PLC and HPLC. Under section 5.1(j.2) of the Regulation Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(j.2)), the final-form rulemaking was deemed approved by the SCP/PLC and HPLC on _____, 2026. Under section 5.1(e) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(e)), IRRC met on _____, 2026, and approved the final-form rulemaking.

*Contact Persons/Additional Information*

Additional information may be obtained by writing to Regulatory Counsel, State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523, RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov.

*Findings*

The board finds that:

(1) Public notice of proposed rulemaking was given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202), known as the Commonwealth Documents Law and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 1 Pa. Code

§§ 7.1 and 7.2 (relating to notice of proposed rulemaking required; and adoption of regulations).

(2) A public comment period was provided as required by law, and all comments received were considered in drafting this final-form rulemaking.

(3) The amendments to this final-form rulemaking do not enlarge the original purpose of the proposed rulemaking published at 56 Pa.B. 209.

(4) This final-form rulemaking is necessary and appropriate for the administration of the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act.

*Order*

The board, therefore, orders that:

(a) The regulations of the board at 49 Pa. Code Chapters 47—49 are amended by amending §§ 47.1a, 47.4; 48.1, 48.3, 48.13a, 48.21—48.25, 48.32, 48.35, 48.36, 48.38, 48.42, 48.51—49.55, 48.57, 48.58, 48.71; 49.1, 49.3, 49.13a, 49.21—49.25, 49.32, 49.35, 49.36, 49.38, 49.42, 49.51—49.55, 49.57, 49.58 and 49.71, to read as set forth in Annex A.

(b) The board shall submit the final-form regulation to the Office of Attorney General and the Office of General Counsel for approval as required by law.

(c) The board shall submit the final-form regulation to IRRC, the SCP/PLC and HPLC as required by law.

(d) The board shall certify the final-form regulation and deposit it with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.

(e) This final-form regulation shall take effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin.*

RICHARD JOSEPH BEHUN, PH.D., LPC, NCC, ACS,

Chairperson

**Annex A**

**TITLE 49. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS**

**PART I. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**Subpart A. PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**CHAPTER 47. STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

§ 47.1a. Qualifications for supervisors **of individuals pursuing a clinical social work license**.

**(a)** ~~***Education and experience***~~ ***GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS.*** To qualify as a supervisor, an individual shall meet one of the following criteria:

(1) Hold **[a] an active** license as a clinical social worker **in the state where the supervisee's experience is occurring** and have 5 years of **post-master's degree** experience within the last 10 years as a clinical social worker.

(2) Hold **[a] an active** license **in a related field in the state where the supervisee's experience is occurring** and a master's **degree** or doctoral degree in **[a] that** related field**[,]** and have 5 years **of post-master's degree** experience within the last 10 years in that field.

(3) Until January 1, 2006, **MET** the following criteria:

(i) Practices as a clinical social worker.

(ii) Have 5 years **of** experience within the last 10 years as a clinical social worker.

(iii) Hold a license to practice as a social worker in this Commonwealth.

**(b)** ~~***Required education***~~ ***SUPERVISOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.*** ~~**A**~~ **BEFORE SERVING AS A SUPERVISOR, A supervisor shall complete** ~~**at least 6 continuing education clock hours on clinical supervision before beginning as a supervisor**~~ **EDUCATIONAL TRAINING. For individuals who are providing supervision on _____, (***Editor's Note*: The blank refers to the publication date of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.) **the** ~~**6 continuing education clock hours**~~ **SUPERVISOR EDUCATIONAL TRAINING shall be completed by _____. (***Editor's Note*: The blank refers to the date 2 years from the publication date of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.) ~~**The 6 continuing education clock hours may be counted as part of the total number of clock hours required in § 47.32 (relating to requirement for biennial renewal). The Board considers supervisors who have completed a graduate-level course on supervision or a clinical supervisor certification program to have met this requirement.**~~ **SUPERVISOR EDUCATIONAL TRAINING CAN BE SATISFIED THROUGH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**(1) A GRADUATE LEVEL COURSE SPECIFIC TO SUPERVISION.**

**(2) A CLINICAL SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.**

**(3) AT LEAST 6 CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS ON CLINICAL SUPERVISION. THE 6 CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS MAY BE COUNTED AS PART OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CLOCK HOURS**

**REQUIRED IN § 47.32 (RELATING TO REQUIREMENT FOR BIENNIAL RENEWAL).**

**§ 47.4. Licensure fees.**

The fee schedule for licensure as a licensed bachelor social worker, licensed social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist **[or],** licensed professional counselor**, licensed associate marriage and family therapist or licensed associate professional counselor** shall be as follows:

(1) Application fee for licensure and original license issuance as a licensed bachelor social worker **[or],** licensed social worker**, licensed associate marriage and family therapist or licensed associate professional counselor**..... $75

(2) Biennial renewal for a licensed bachelor social worker, licensed social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist **[or],** licensed professional counselor**, licensed associate marriage and family therapist or licensed associate professional counselor**..... $95

* * * * *

## CHAPTER 48. STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS—LICENSURE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

**§ 48.1. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*AAMFT*—The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

***AMFT*—Associate marriage and family therapist.**

*AMFTRB*—The Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards.

* * * * *

*Client/patient*—An individual, group or family for whom a licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** provides marriage and family therapy services. In the case of an individual with a legal guardian, such as a minor or legally incapacitated adult, the individual is the client/patient.

* * * * *

*Institution of higher education*—An independent institution of higher education, a community college, a State-related institution or a member institution of the State System. (See 22 Pa. Code § 33.102 (relating to definitions)).

***LICENSED ASSOCIATE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST*—AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED AS AN ASSOCIATE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST UNDER THE ACT WHO IS OBTAINING SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF BECOMING A LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST.**

*MFT*—Marriage and family therapist.

* * * * *

*Professional relationship*—A therapeutic relationship which is deemed to exist for the period of time beginning with the first professional contact or consultation between a licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** and a client/patient and continuing thereafter until the last date of a professional service. If a licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** sees a client/patient on an intermittent basis, the professional relationship is deemed to start anew on each date that the licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** provides a professional service to the client/patient.

* * * * *

*Sexual intimacies*—Romantic, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or erotic behavior. Examples of this behavior include the following:

(i) Sexual intercourse, or any touching of the sexual or intimate parts of the person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire in either person.

(ii) Nontherapeutic verbal communication or inappropriate nonverbal communication of a sexual or romantic nature.

(iii) Sexual invitations.

(iv) Soliciting or accepting a date from a client/patient.

(v) Masturbating in the presence of a client/patient or encouraging a client/patient to masturbate in the presence of the licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT**.

(vi) Indecent exposure, kissing, hugging, touching, physical contact or self-disclosure of a sexual or erotic nature.

*Supervisee*—An individual who is fulfilling the supervised experience requirement for licensure.

*Supervision*—The act of overseeing, directing or instructing the activity or course of action of another.

***Supervision plan*—A plan of supervision that includes the criteria in § 48.13a(a)(3) (relating to licensed associate marriage and family therapist) ~~and § 49.13a(a)(3) (relating to licensed associate professional counselor).~~**

*Supervisor*—An individual providing supervision to a supervisee who meets the criteria in § 48.3 (relating to qualifications for supervisors **of individuals pursuing a marriage and family therapist license**).

**§ 48.3. Qualifications for supervisors of individuals pursuing a marriage and family therapist license**.

**(a) *~~Education and experience~~* *GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS.*** To qualify as a supervisor, an individual shall meet one of the following criteria:

(1) Hold a **current and active** license as an MFT **[and have received certification as an approved supervisor or supervisor-in-training by the AAMFT] in the state where the supervisee's experience is occurring and have 5 years of post-master's degree experience within the last 10 years as an MFT**.

(2) Hold a **current and active** license **in a related field in the state where the supervisee's experience is occurring** and **[have at least]** a master's degree **or doctoral degree** in **[a] that** related field**[,]** and have 5 years **of post-master's degree** experience within the last 10 years in that field.

(3) Until January 1, 2010, ~~meet~~ **MET** the following criteria:

(i) Practices as an MFT.

(ii) Have completed a 1-semester graduate course in MFT supervision (at least 30 contact hours) or the equivalent.

(iii) Have 5 years **of** experience within the last 10 years as an MFT.

**(4) HOLD A CURRENT AND ACTIVE LICENSE AS AN MFT IN THE STATE WHERE THE SUPERVISEE'S EXPERIENCE IS OCCURRING AND HAVE AN APPROVED SUPERVISOR DESIGNATION FROM THE AAMFT.**

**(b) *~~Required education~~* *SUPERVISOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS*. ~~A~~ BEFORE SERVING AS A SUPERVISOR, A supervisor shall complete ~~at least 6 continuing education clock hours on supervision before beginning as a~~ supervisor EDUCATIONAL TRAINING. For individuals who are providing supervision on _____,** (*Editor's Note*: The blank refers to

the publication date of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.) **the ~~6 continuing education clock hours~~ SUPERVISOR EDUCATIONAL TRAINING shall be completed by _____. (***Editor's Note*: The blank refers to the date 2 years from the publication date of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.) **~~The 6 continuing education clock hours may be counted as part of the total number of clock hours required in § 48.32 (relating to requirement for biennial renewal). The Board considers supervisors who have taken and passed a graduate level course on supervision or a clinical supervisor certification program to have met this requirement.~~ SUPERVISOR EDUCATIONAL TRAINING MAY BE SATISFIED THROUGH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**(1) A GRADUATE LEVEL COURSE SPECIFIC TO SUPERVISION.**

**(2) A CLINICAL SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.**

**(3) APPROVED SUPERVISOR DESIGNATION BY THE AAMFT.**

**(4) AT LEAST 6 CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS ON CLINICAL SUPERVISION. THE 6 CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS MAY BE COUNTED AS PART OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CLOCK HOURS REQUIRED IN § 48.32 (RELATING TO REQUIREMENT FOR BIENNIAL RENEWAL).**

**LICENSURE**

(*Editor's Note*: Section 48.13a is to be added and was printed in regular type in the proposed rulemaking to enhance readability.)

**§ 48.13a. Licensed associate marriage and family therapist.**

(a) *Qualifications*. To be issued a license to hold oneself out as a licensed AMFT, an applicant shall provide proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has met the following conditions:

(1) Has satisfied the general requirements for licensure of § 48.12 (relating to general qualifications for licensure).

(2) Has satisfied one of the educational requirements under § 48.13(a)(3) (relating to licensed MFT).

(3) Has submitted a written supervision plan for supervised clinical experience, which includes all of the following:

(i) A description of the work setting.

(ii) A detailed job description for the supervisee, including the nature of the supervisee's duties and responsibilities.

(iii) A detailed description of the supervisor's responsibilities and qualifications.

(iv) Identification of each location where client contact will occur.

(v) Identification of each location where supervision will occur.

(vi) Frequency of supervision planned.

(4) Has submitted the resume or curriculum vitae for each licensee who provides supervision.

(5) Has completed at least 3 hours of training in child abuse recognition and reporting in accordance with § 48.58(a) (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement).

(b) *Supervisors*. Supervisors shall meet the requirements under § 48.3 (relating to qualifications for supervisors of individuals pursuing a marriage and family therapist license) and supervisory standards in this chapter, including § 48.13(b) and § 48.14 (relating to standards for supervisors). **SUPERVISORS SHALL PROVIDE APPLICANTS WITH A CURRENT RESUME OR CURRICULUM VITAE.**

(c) *Renewal*. Renewal of an AMFT license shall be on a biennial basis, and the license shall be eligible for no more than three renewals. As a condition for biennial renewal, a licensed AMFT shall meet the continuing education requirements in §§ 48.31—48.42 (relating to continuing education).

(d) *Notification to the Board*. When an AMFT obtains a new supervisor, the AMFT shall notify the Board and provide the resume or curriculum vitae for the licensee or licensees who provide supervision.

## SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

### § 48.21. Prohibited conduct.

Sexual intimacies between a licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** and a current client/patient, or an immediate family member of a current client/patient, are prohibited.

**§ 48.22. Former sexual partners as clients/patients.**

Licensed **[marriage and family therapists]** **MFTs and AMFTs** may not accept as client/patients individuals with whom they have engaged in sexual intimacies.

**§ 48.23. Sexual intimacies with a former client/patient or an immediate family member of a former client/patient.**

(a) Sexual intimacies between a licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** and a former client/patient or an immediate family member of a former client/patient are prohibited for 7 years following the termination of the professional relationship.

(b) Following the passage of the 7-year period, licensed **[marriage and family therapists]** **MFTs and AMFTs** may engage in sexual conduct with a former client/patient or an immediate family member of a former client/patient ~~**which**~~ **THAT** is not exploitive. In determining whether the conduct is exploitive, the licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** shall consider all of the following:

* * * * *

(6) Statements or actions made by the licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** during the course of therapy suggesting or inviting the possibility of a posttermination sexual or romantic relationship with the client/patient.

* * * * *

**§ 48.24. Disciplinary proceedings.**

(a) A violation of §§ 48.21—48.23 (relating to prohibited conduct; former sexual partners as clients/patients; and sexual intimacies with a former client/patient or an immediate family member of a former client/patient) will be deemed unprofessional conduct and will subject the licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** to discipline under section 11(a)(2) of the act (63 P.S. § 1911(a)(2)).

(b) The consent of a former client/patient or immediate family member of a former client/patient to engage in sexual intimacies with the licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** is not a defense in any disciplinary action brought under §§ 48.21—48.23.

* * * * *

**§ 48.25. Impaired professional program.**

When the Board takes disciplinary or corrective action against a licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** under section 11(a) of the act (63 P.S. § 1911(a)), for conduct prohibited by §§ 48.21—48.23 (relating to prohibited conduct; former sexual partners as clients/patients; and sexual intimacies with a former client/patient**[,]** or an immediate family member of a former client/patient), the licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** will not be eligible for placement into an impaired professional program in lieu of disciplinary or corrective action.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### § 48.32. Requirement for biennial renewal.

The Board requires, as a condition of biennial renewal of **[a marriage and family therapist's]** **an MFT's or AMFT's** license, the completion during the preceding biennium of 30 clock hours of continuing education in acceptable courses and programs offered by approved providers. Up to 20 clock hours may be obtained by home study. Excess clock hours may not be carried over to the next biennium. At least 3 of the required 30 clock hours must be related to ethical issues and at least 2 of the required 30 clock hours must be completed in child abuse recognition and reporting in accordance with § 48.58(b) (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement).

### § 48.35. Standards for courses and programs.

(a) A provider or licensee seeking Board approval of a course or program shall present evidence that the course or program is appropriate for the master's level practitioner and has the following:

(1) Subject matter pertaining to the enhancement of the **[marriage and family therapist's]** **MFT's or AMFT's** knowledge and practice skills related to helping people achieve adequate and productive personal, interpersonal and social adjustments in their individual lives, in their families and in their community.

* * * * *

### § 48.36. Preapproved providers of continuing education courses and programs for marriage and family therapists and associate marriage and family therapists.

* * * * *

(b) The Board will consider for approval, as preapproved providers, other organizations who offer multiple courses and programs for **[marriage and family therapists]** **MFTs or AMFTs**. The request for approval shall be submitted to the Board in writing along with a rationale as to why the organization should be included as a preapproved provider.

* * * * *

**§ 48.38. Reporting by licensee of hours spent in continuing education; continuing education audit and enforcement.**

* * * * *

(b) The Board will randomly audit licensees to ensure compliance with the continuing education requirements. A licensee selected for audit shall provide information to document the licensee's completion of required continuing education. The information must include the following:

(1) The date attended.

* * * * *

(7) The Board approval number assigned to the course or program unless the provider is preapproved under § 48.36(a) (relating to preapproved providers of continuing education courses and programs for marriage and family therapists **and associate marriage and family therapists**).

* * * * *

**§ 48.42. Disciplinary action authorized.**

(a) A licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** who submits fraudulent clock hour reports will be subject to disciplinary action under section 11(a)(5) of the act (63 P.S. § 1911(a)(5)).

* * * * *

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**§ 48.51. Definitions relating to child abuse reporting requirements.**

The following words and terms, when used in this section and §§ 48.52—48.59 (relating to child abuse reporting requirements), have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * * * *

*Mandated reporter*—A person who is required under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6311 (relating to persons required to report suspected child abuse) to make a report of suspected child abuse. For purposes of this chapter, the term includes all licensed **[marriage and family therapists]** **MFTs and AMFTs**.

*Parent*—A biological parent, adoptive parent or legal guardian.

* * * * *

**§ 48.52. Suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements.**

(a) *General rule.*

(1) Under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6311 (relating to persons required to report suspected child abuse), licensed **[marriage and family therapists]** **MFTs and AMFTs** are considered mandated reporters. A mandated reporter shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with this section if the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse under any of the following circumstances:

* * * * *

(b) *Staff members of public or private agencies, institutions and facilities*. Whenever a licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** is required to make a report under subsection (a) in the capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility or agency, that licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** shall report immediately in accordance with subsection (c) and shall immediately thereafter notify the person in charge of the institution, school, facility or agency or the designated agent of the person in charge.

* * * * *

**§ 48.53. Photographs of child subject to report.**

A licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** may take or cause to be taken photographs of the child who is subject to a report. Summaries or reports of the photographs taken shall be sent to the county children and youth social service agency at the time the written report

is sent, or within 48 hours after an electronic report is made under § 48.52(c)(1)(ii) (relating to suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements), or as soon thereafter as possible. The county children and youth social service agency shall have access to actual photographs or duplicates and may obtain them or duplicates of them upon request. Summaries or reports of the photographs shall be made available to law enforcement officials in the course of investigating cases under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6340(a)(9) or (10) (relating to release of information in confidential reports).

**§ 48.54. Suspected death as a result of child abuse—mandated reporting requirement.**

A licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child died as a result of child abuse shall report that suspicion to the coroner or medical examiner of the county where death occurred or, in the case where the child is transported to another county for medical treatment, to the coroner or medical examiner of the county where the injuries were sustained.

**§ 48.55. Immunity from liability.**

Under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6318 (relating to immunity from liability) a licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** who participates in good faith in the making of a report of suspected child abuse, making a referral for general protective services, cooperating or consulting with an investigation including providing information to a child fatality or near fatality review team, testifying in a proceeding arising out of an instance of suspected child abuse or general protective services or engaging in any action authorized under 23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6314—6317, shall have immunity from civil and criminal liability that might otherwise result by reason of the

licensed **[marriage and family therapist's]** **MFT's or AMFT's** actions. For the purpose of any civil or criminal proceeding, the good faith of the licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** shall be presumed. The Board will uphold the same good faith presumption in any disciplinary proceeding that might result by reason of a licensed **[marriage and family therapist's]** **MFT's or AMFT's** actions under §§ 48.52—48.54 (relating to suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements; photographs of child subject to report; and suspected death as a result of child abuse—mandated reporting requirement).

**§ 48.57. Noncompliance.**

(a) *Disciplinary action.* A licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** who willfully fails to comply with the reporting requirements in §§ 48.52—48.54 (relating to suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements; photographs of child subject to report; and suspected death as a result of child abuse—mandated reporting requirement) will be subject to disciplinary action under section 11 of the act (63 P.S. § 1911).

(b) *Criminal penalties.* Under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6319 (relating to penalties), a licensed **[marriage and family therapist]** **MFT or AMFT** who is required to report a case of suspected child abuse or to make a referral to the appropriate authorities and who willfully fails to do so commits a criminal offense, as follows:

* * * * *

**§ 48.58. Child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (c), individuals applying to the Board for a license as **[a marriage and family therapist]** **an MFT or AMFT** shall complete, as a condition of licensure, at least 3 hours of training in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements which has been approved by the Department of Human Services and the Bureau, as set forth in § 48.59 (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting course approval process). The applicant shall certify on the application that the applicant has either completed the required training or has been granted an exemption under subsection (c). The Board will not issue a license unless the Bureau has received an electronic report from an approved course provider documenting the attendance/participation by the applicant or the applicant has obtained an exemption under subsection (c).

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), licensed **[marriage and family therapists]** **MFTs or AMFTs** seeking renewal of a license issued by the Board shall complete, as a condition of biennial renewal of the license, at least 2 hours of approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting as a portion of the total continuing education required for biennial renewal. For credit to be granted, the continuing education course or program must be approved by the Bureau, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, as set forth in § 48.59. The Board will not renew a license unless the Bureau has received an electronic report from an approved course provider documenting the attendance/participation by the licensee in an approved course within the applicable biennial renewal period or the licensee has obtained an exemption under subsection (c). If a licensee holds more than one license issued by the Board, or holds a license issued by another licensing Board within the Bureau that requires mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting, credit for completion of an approved course will be applied to both licenses.

* * * * *

## CODE OF ETHICAL PRACTICE AND STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

### § 48.71. Code of ethical practice and professional conduct.

The Board subscribes to the code of ethics and practice standards for licensed **[marriage and family therapists]** **MFTs or AMFTs** (licensees) promulgated by the **[American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)]** **AAMFT** and the Board will use the AAMFT Code of Ethics in resolving ambiguities which may arise in the interpretation of this chapter, except that whenever any conflict exists between this chapter and the AAMFT Code of Ethics, this chapter shall prevail.

## CHAPTER 49. STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS—LICENSURE OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### § 49.1. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * * * *

*Client/patient*—An individual, group or family for whom a licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** provides professional counseling services. In the case of an

individual with a legal guardian such as a minor or legally incapacitated adult, the individual is the client/patient.

* * * * *

*Institution of higher education*—An independent institution of higher education, a community college, a State-related institution or a member institution of the State System. See 22 Pa. Code § 33.102 (relating to definitions).

***LICENSED ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR*—AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED AS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR UNDER THE ACT WHO IS OBTAINING SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF BECOMING A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR.**

*Master's degree in a field closely related to the practice of professional counseling*—Includes one of the following:

(i) Degrees in social work, psychology, art therapy, dance/movement therapy, drama therapy, music therapy, human services, counseling education and child development and family studies.

(ii) A degree in any applied behavioral science that includes a practicum or internship and meets any five of the educational requirements in § 49.2(1)—(8).

* * * * *

*Professional relationship*—A therapeutic relationship which is deemed to exist for the period of time beginning with the first professional contact or consultation between a licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** and a client/patient and continuing

thereafter until the last date of a professional service. If a licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** sees a client/patient on an intermittent basis, the professional relationship is deemed to start anew on each date that the licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** provides a professional service to the client/patient.

*Related field*—Includes the fields of psychiatry, psychology, social work, marriage and family therapy, art therapy, dance/movement therapy, drama therapy, music therapy, human services and counseling education.

*Sexual intimacies*—Romantic, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or erotic behavior. Examples of this behavior include the following:

(i) Sexual intercourse, or any touching of the sexual or intimate parts of the person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire in either person.

(ii) Nontherapeutic verbal communication or inappropriate nonverbal communication of a sexual or romantic nature.

(iii) Sexual invitations.

(iv) Soliciting or accepting a date from a client/patient.

(v) Masturbating in the presence of a client/patient or encouraging a client/patient to masturbate in the presence of the licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor**.

(vi) Indecent exposure, kissing, hugging, touching, physical contact or self-disclosure of a sexual or erotic nature.

*Supervisee*—An individual who is fulfilling the supervised experience requirement for licensure.

*Supervision*—The act of overseeing, directing or instructing the activity or course of action of another.

***Supervision plan*—A plan of supervision that includes the criteria in § 49.13a (relating to licensed associate professional counselor).**

*Supervisor*—An individual providing supervision to a supervisee who meets the criteria in § 49.3 (relating to qualifications for supervisors **of individuals pursuing a professional counselor license**).

**§ 49.3. Qualifications for supervisors of individuals pursuing a professional counselor license**.

**(a) ~~*Education and experience*~~ *GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS.*** To qualify as a supervisor, an individual shall meet one of the following criteria:

(1) **[Holds a] Hold ~~an~~ A CURRENT AND active** license as a professional counselor **in the state where the supervisee's experience is occurring** and **[has] have** 5 years **of post-master's degree** experience within the last 10 years as a professional counselor.

(2) **[Holds a] Hold ~~an~~ A CURRENT AND active** license **in a related field in the state where the supervisee's experience is occurring** and **[has at least]** a master's **degree or doctoral** degree in **[a] that** related field and **[has] have** 5 years **of post-master's degree** experience within the last 10 years in that field.

(3) Until January 1, 2006, **~~meet~~ MET** the following criteria:

(i) Practices as a professional counselor.

(ii) Has 5 years **of** experience within the last 10 years as a professional counselor.

**(4) HOLD A CURRENT AND ACTIVE LICENSE AS A PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR IN THE STATE WHERE THE SUPERVISEE'S EXPERIENCE IS OCCURRING AND HAVE AN APPROVED CLINICAL SUPERVISOR CREDENTIAL FROM THE CENTER FOR CREDENTIALING & EDUCATION APPROVED CLINCIAL SUPERVISOR CREDENTIAL PROGRAM.**

**(b) *~~Required continuing education~~* *SUPERVISOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.* ~~A~~ BEFORE SERVING AS A SUPERVISOR, A supervisor shall complete ~~at least 6 continuing education clock hours on supervision before beginning as a~~ supervisor EDUCATIONAL TRAINING. For individuals who are providing supervision on _____,** (*Editor's Note*: The blank refers to the date of publication of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.) **~~the 6 continuing education clock hours~~ SUPERVISOR EDUCATIONAL TRAINING shall be completed by _____.**(*Editor's Note*: The blank refers to the date 2 years from the publication date of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.) **~~The 6~~**

~~**continuing education clock hours may be counted as part of the total number of clock hours required in § 49.32 (relating to requirement for biennial renewal). The Board considers supervisors who have taken a graduate-level course on supervision or clinical supervisor certification program to have met this requirement.**~~ **SUPERVISOR EDUCATIONAL TRAINING MAY BE SATISIFIED THROUGH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**(1) A GRADUATE LEVEL COURSE SPECIFIC TO SUPERVISION.**

**(2) A CLINICAL SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.**

**(3) AN APPROVED CLINICAL SUPERVISOR CREDENTIAL FROM THE CENTER FOR CREDENTIALING & EDUCATION APPROVED CLINICAL SUPERVISOR CREDENTIAL PROGRAM.**

**(4) AT LEAST 6 CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS ON CLINICAL SUPERVISION. THE 6 CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS MAY BE COUNTED AS PART OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CLOCK HOURS REQUIRED IN § 49.32 (RELATING TO REQUIREMENT FOR BIENNIAL RENEWAL).**

## LICENSE

(*Editor's Note*: Section 49.13a is to be added and was printed in regular type when published as proposed to enhance readability.)

**§ 49.13a. Licensed associate professional counselor.**

(a) *Qualifications*. To be issued a license to hold oneself out as a licensed associate professional counselor, an applicant shall provide proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has met the following conditions:

(1) Has satisfied the general requirements for licensure in § 49.12 (relating to general qualifications for licensure).

(2) Has satisfied one of the educational requirements under § 49.13(a)(3) (relating to licensed professional counselor).

(3) Has submitted a written supervision plan for supervised clinical experience, which includes all of the following:

(i) A description of the work setting.

(ii) A detailed job description for the supervisee, including the nature of the supervisee's duties and responsibilities.

(iii) A detailed description of the supervisor's responsibilities and qualifications.

(iv) Identification of each location where client contact will occur.

(v) Identification of each location where supervision will occur.

(vi) Frequency of supervision planned.

(4) Has submitted the resume or curriculum vitae for each licensee who provides supervision.

(5) Has completed at least 3 hours of training in child abuse recognition and reporting in accordance with § 49.58(a) (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement).

(b) *Supervisors.* Supervisors shall meet the requirements under § 49.3 (relating to qualifications for supervisors of individuals pursuing a professional counselor license) and supervisory standards in this chapter, including §§ 49.13(b) and 49.14 (relating to standards for supervisors). **SUPERVISORS SHALL PROVIDE APPLICANTS WITH A CURRENT RESUME OR CURRICULUM VITAE.**

(c) *Renewal*. Renewal of an associate professional counselor license shall be on a biennial basis, and the license shall be eligible for no more than three renewals. As a condition for biennial renewal, a licensed associate professional counselor shall meet the continuing education requirements in §§ 49.31—49.42 (relating to continuing education).

(d) *Notification to the Board*. When an associate professional counselor obtains a new supervisor, the associate professional counselor shall notify the Board and provide the resume or curriculum vitae for the licensee or licensees who provide supervision.

## SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

### § 49.21. Prohibited conduct.

Sexual intimacies between a licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** and a current client/patient, or an immediate family member of a current client/patient, are prohibited.

**§ 49.22. Former sexual partners as clients/patients.**

Licensed professional counselors **and associate professional counselors** may not accept as clients/patients individuals with whom they have engaged in sexual intimacies.

**§ 49.23. Sexual intimacies with a former client/patient or an immediate family member of a former client/patient.**

(a) Sexual intimacies between a licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** and a former client/patient, or an immediate family member of a former client/patient are prohibited for 7 years following the termination of the professional relationship.

(b) Following the passage of the 7-year period, licensed professional counselors **and associate professional counselors** may engage in sexual conduct with a former client/patient, or an immediate family member of a former client/patient ~~**which**~~ **THAT** is not exploitive. In determining whether the conduct is exploitive, the licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** shall consider all of the following:

(1) The amount of time that has passed since the professional relationship terminated.

(2) The nature and duration of the therapy.

(3) The circumstances of termination.

(4) The client/patient's personal history, for example, unique vulnerabilities.

(5) The client/patient's current mental status.

(6) Statements or actions made by the licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** during the course of therapy suggesting or inviting the possibility of a posttermination sexual or romantic relationship with the client/patient.

(7) The likelihood of adverse impact on the client/patient and immediate family members of the client/patient.

**§ 49.24. Disciplinary proceedings.**

(a) A violation of §§ 49.21—49.23 (relating to prohibited conduct; former sexual partners as clients/patients; and sexual intimacies with a former client/patient or an immediate family member of a former client/patient) will be deemed unprofessional conduct and will subject the licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** to discipline under section 1911(a)(2) of the act (63 P.S. § 1911(a)(2)).

(b) The consent of a former client/patient or immediate family member of a former client/patient to engage in sexual intimacies with the licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** is not a defense in any disciplinary action brought under §§ 49.21—49.23.

* * * * *

**§ 49.25. Impaired professional program.**

When the Board takes disciplinary or corrective action against a licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** under section 11(a) of the act (63 P.S. § 1911(a)), for conduct prohibited by §§ 49.21—49.23 (relating to prohibited conduct; former sexual partners

as clients/patients; and sexual intimacies with a former client/patient**[,]** or an immediate family member of a former client/patient), the licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** will not be eligible for placement into an impaired professional program in lieu of disciplinary or corrective action.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### § 49.32. Requirement for biennial renewal.

The Board requires, as a condition of biennial renewal of a professional **[counselor's]** **counselor or associate professional counselor** license, the completion during the preceding biennium of 30 clock hours of continuing education in acceptable courses and programs offered by approved providers. Up to 20 clock hours may be obtained by home study. Excess clock hours may not be carried over to the next biennium. At least 3 of the required 30 clock hours must be related to ethical issues and at least 2 of the required 30 clock hours must be completed in child abuse recognition and reporting in accordance with § 49.58(b) (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement).

### § 49.35. Standards for courses and programs.

(a) A provider or licensee seeking Board approval of a course or program shall present evidence that the course or program is geared toward the master's level practitioner and has the following:

(1) Subject matter pertaining to the enhancement of the professional counselor's **or associate professional counselor's** knowledge and practice skills related to helping people

achieve adequate and productive personal, interpersonal and social adjustments in their individual lives, in their families and in their community.

* * * * *

**§ 49.36. Preapproved providers of continuing education courses and programs for professional counselors and associate professional counselors.**

* * * * *

(b) The Board will consider for approval, as preapproved providers, other organizations who offer multiple courses and programs for professional counselors **and associate professional counselors**. The request for approval shall be submitted to the Board in writing along with a rationale as to why the organization should be included as a preapproved provider.

* * * * *

**§ 49.38. Reporting by licensee of hours spent in continuing education; continuing education audit and enforcement.**

* * * * *

(b) The Board will randomly audit licensees to ensure compliance with the continuing education requirements. A licensee selected for audit shall provide information to document the licensee's completion of required continuing education. The information must include the following:

(1) The date attended.

* * * * *

(7) The Board approval number assigned to the course or program unless the provider is preapproved under § 49.36(a) (relating to preapproved providers of continuing education courses and programs for professional counselors **and associate professional counselors**).

* * * * *

**§ 49.42. Disciplinary action authorized.**

(a) A licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** who submits fraudulent clock hour reports will be subject to disciplinary action under section 11(a)(5) of the act (63 P.S. § 1911(a)(5)).

(b) The falsification of a clock hour report by a program provider will result in revocation of approval by the Board for further program offerings of that provider.

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**§ 49.51. Definitions relating to child abuse reporting requirements.**

The following words and terms, when used in this section and §§ 49.52—49.59 (relating to child abuse reporting requirements), have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * * * *

*Mandated reporter*—A person who is required under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6311 (relating to persons required to report suspected child abuse) to make a report of suspected child abuse. For purposes of this chapter, the term includes all licensed professional counselors **and associate professional counselors**.

* * * * *

**§ 49.52. Suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements.**

(a) *General rule.*

(1) Under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6311 (relating to persons required to report suspected child abuse), licensed professional counselors **and associate professional counselors** are considered mandated reporters. A mandated reporter shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with this section if the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse under any of the following circumstances:

* * * * *

(b) *Staff members of public or private agencies, institutions and facilities.* Whenever a licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** is required to make a report under subsection (a) in the capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility or agency, that licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** shall report immediately in accordance with subsection (c) and shall immediately thereafter notify the person in charge of the institution, school, facility or agency or the designated agent of the person in charge.

* * * * *

**§ 49.53. Photographs of child subject to report.**

A licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** may take or cause to be taken photographs of the child who is subject to a report. Summaries or reports of the photographs taken shall be sent to the county children and youth social service agency at the time the written report is sent, or within 48 hours after an electronic report is made under § 49.52(c)(1)(ii) (relating to suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements), or as soon thereafter as possible. The county children and youth social service agency shall have access to actual photographs or duplicates and may obtain them or duplicates of them upon request. Summaries or reports of the photographs shall be made available to law enforcement officials in the course of investigating cases under **[23 Pa.C.S. § 6490(a)(9) or (10)]** **23 Pa.C.S. § 6340(a)(9) or (10)** (relating to release of information in confidential reports).

**§ 49.54. Suspected death as a result of child abuse—mandated reporting requirement.**

A licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child died as a result of child abuse shall report that suspicion to the coroner or medical examiner of the county where death occurred or, in the case where the child is transported to another county for medical treatment, to the coroner or medical examiner of the county where the injuries were sustained.

**§ 49.55. Immunity from liability.**

Under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6318 (relating to immunity from liability) a licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** who participates in good faith in the making of a report of suspected child abuse, making a referral for general protective services, cooperating or consulting with an investigation including providing information to a child fatality or near fatality review team, testifying in a proceeding arising out of an instance of suspected child abuse or general protective services or engaging in any action authorized under 23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6314—6317, shall have immunity from civil and criminal liability that might otherwise result by reason of the licensed professional counselor's **or associate professional counselor's** actions. For the purpose of any civil or criminal proceeding, the good faith of the licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** shall be presumed. The Board will uphold the same good faith presumption in any disciplinary proceeding that might result by reason of a licensed professional counselor's **or associate professional counselor's** actions under §§ 49.52—49.54 (relating to suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements; photographs of child subject to report; and suspected death as a result of child abuse—mandated reporting requirement).

**§ 49.57. Noncompliance.**

(a) *Disciplinary action*. A licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** who willfully fails to comply with the reporting requirements in §§ 49.52—49.54 (relating to suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements; photographs of child subject to report; and suspected death as a result of child abuse—mandated reporting requirement) will be subject to disciplinary action under section 11 of the act (63 P.S. § 1911).

(b) *Criminal penalties*. Under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6319 (relating to penalties), a licensed professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** who is required to report a case of suspected child

abuse or to make a referral to the appropriate authorities and who willfully fails to do so commits a criminal offense, as follows:

* * * * *

**§ 49.58. Child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (c), individuals applying to the Board for a license as a professional counselor **or associate professional counselor** shall complete, as a condition of licensure, at least 3 hours of training in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements which has been approved by the Department of Human Services and the Bureau, as set forth in § 49.59 (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting course approval process). The applicant shall certify on the application that the applicant has either completed the required training or has been granted an exemption under subsection (c). The Board will not issue a license unless the Bureau has received an electronic report from an approved course provider documenting the attendance/participation by the applicant or the applicant has obtained an exemption under subsection (c).

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), licensed professional counselors **or associate professional counselors** seeking renewal of a license issued by the Board shall complete, as a condition of biennial renewal of the license, at least 2 hours of approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting as a portion of the total continuing education required for biennial renewal. For credit to be granted, the continuing education course or program must be approved by the Bureau, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, as set forth in § 49.59 (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting course approval process). The Board will

not renew a license unless the Bureau has received an electronic report from an approved course provider documenting the attendance/participation by the licensee in an approved course within the applicable biennial renewal period or the licensee has obtained an exemption under subsection (c). If a licensee holds more than one license issued by the Board, or holds a license issued by another licensing Board within the Bureau that requires mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting, credit for completion of an approved course will be applied to both licenses.

* * * * *

**CODE OF ETHICAL PRACTICE AND STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

**§ 49.71. Code of ethical practice and professional conduct.**

(a) The Board subscribes to the code of ethics and practice standards for licensees promulgated by the American Counseling Association (ACA). Licensed professional counselors **and associate professional counselors** (licensees) shall adhere to the ACA Code of Ethics, except when the ACA Code of Ethics **[conflict] conflicts** with this chapter. The Board will use the ACA Code of Ethics in resolving ambiguities that may arise in the interpretation of this chapter, except that whenever any conflict exists between this chapter and the ACA Code of Ethics, this chapter shall prevail.

* * * * *

Pennsylvania
Department of State

October 22, 2026

The Honorable George D. Bedwick., Chairman
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
Forum Place
555 Walnut Street, Suite 804
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Final Rulemaking
State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors
16A-6927: Associate MFT and PC and Supervision

Dear Chairman Bedwick:

Enclosed is a copy of a final rulemaking package of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors pertaining to 16A-6927: Associate MFT and PC and Supervision.

The Board will be pleased to provide whatever information the Commission may require during the course of its review of the rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Richard Joseph Behun, PH.D., LPC, NCC,ACS
State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors

RJB/JAW/ztl
Enclosures

cc: Arion Claggett, Acting Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs
K. Kalonji Johnson, Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs
Robert Beecher, Policy Director, Department of State
Andrew LaFratte, Deputy Policy Director, Department of State
Miguel Ruiz, Assistant Deputy Secretary of Policy and Planning
Jason C. Giurintano, Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of State
Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Senior Regulatory Counsel, Department of State
Thomas M. Davis, Board Counsel, State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors
State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors

## LaBoy, Zachary

**From:** Monoski, Jesse <jesse.monoski@pasenate.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2026 9:37 AM
**To:** LaBoy, Zachary; Dimm, Ian; Kelly, Joseph; Vazquez, Enid
**Cc:** Roland, Joel; Worthington, Amber
**Subject:** RE: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION # 16A-6927 Associate MFT and PC and Supervision

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Thank you,

Jesse A. Monoski
Executive Director
Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee
Senator Lisa M. Boscola, Minority Chair
Room 458 Main Capitol Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa. 17120
Office: 717-787-4236 | Direct: 717-787-3506
www.senatorboscola.com

---

**From:** LaBoy, Zachary <zlaboy@pa.gov>
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2026 8:16 AM
**To:** Monoski, Jesse <jesse.monoski@pasenate.com>; Dimm, Ian <ian.dimm@pasenate.com>; Kelly, Joseph <joseph.kelly@pasenate.com>; Vazquez, Enid <enid.vazquez@pasenate.com>
**Cc:** Roland, Joel <joeroland@pa.gov>; Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>
**Subject:** DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION # 16A-6927 Associate MFT and PC and Supervision
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- **16A- 6927** Associate MFT and PC and Supervision

This final-form rulemaking effectuates the act of March 28, 2024, (P.L. 11, No. 4) (Act 4 of 2024) which amends the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act (act) to include the licensure and practice of associate marriage and family therapists (AMFT), and associate professional counselors. This rulemaking establishes the application and biennial renewal fees as set forth in Act 4 of 2024, includes definitions concerning associate licenses, further establishes the

requirements to be issued a license as an AMFT and an associate professional counselor under Act 4 of 2024, and amends provisions pertaining v to qualifications for supervisors.

**The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family is requesting a written (email) confirmation of receipt of this delivery from the designated contact person(s) from your office for the Majority or Minority Chair of your office's effectuating the electronic delivery.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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**Zachary LaBoy** | Legal Assistant II (he/him)
Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State
Governor's Office of General Counsel
P.O. Box 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523
Phone: 717.783.7200 Fax:717.787.0251
www.dos.pa.gov

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## LaBoy, Zachary

**From:** Orchard, Kari L. <KOrchard@pahouse.net>
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2026 9:51 AM
**To:** LaBoy, Zachary
**Subject:** RE: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION # 16A-6927 Associate MFT and PC and Supervision

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Received. Thank you!

**Kari Orchard**
Executive Director (D) | House Professional Licensure Committee
Chairman Frank Burns, 72nd Legislative District

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**From:** LaBoy, Zachary <zlaboy@pa.gov>
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2026 8:16 AM
**To:** Orchard, Kari L. <KOrchard@pahouse.net>; Barton, Jamie <JBarton@pahouse.net>; Brett, Joseph D. <JBrett@pahouse.net>
**Cc:** Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>; Roland, Joel <joeroland@pa.gov>
**Subject:** DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION # 16A-6927 Associate MFT and PC and Supervision
**Importance:** High

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**Zachary LaBoy** | Legal Assistant II (he/him)
Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State
Governor's Office of General Counsel
P.O. Box 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523
Phone: 717.783.7200 Fax:717.787.0251
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## LaBoy, Zachary

**From:** Nicole Sidle <Nsidle@pahousegop.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2026 9:06 AM
**To:** LaBoy, Zachary
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION # 16A-6927 Associate MFT and PC and Supervision

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This has been received. Thanks.

Nicole

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**From:** LaBoy, Zachary <zlaboy@pa.gov>
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2026 8:16 AM
**To:** Nicole Sidle <Nsidle@pahousegop.com>; Cindy Sauder <Csauder@pahousegop.com>
**Cc:** Roland, Joel <joeroland@pa.gov>; Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION # 16A-6927 Associate MFT and PC and Supervision
**Importance:** High

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**Zachary LaBoy** | Legal Assistant II (he/him)
Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State
Governor's Office of General Counsel
P.O. Box 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523
Phone: 717.783.7200 Fax:717.787.0251
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## LaBoy, Zachary

**From:** Smeltz, Jennifer <jmsmeltz@pasen.gov>
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2026 9:55 AM
**To:** LaBoy, Zachary
**Subject:** RE: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION # 16A-6927 Associate MFT and PC and Supervision

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October 22, 2026

Received.

*Jen Smeltz, Executive Director*
*Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee*
*Office of Senator Pat Stefano*
*Phone: (717) 787-7175*

---

**From:** LaBoy, Zachary <zlaboy@pa.gov>
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2026 8:16 AM
**To:** Smeltz, Jennifer <jmsmeltz@pasen.gov>
**Cc:** Roland, Joel <joeroland@pa.gov>; Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>
**Subject:** DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION # 16A-6927 Associate MFT and PC and Supervision
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**Zachary LaBoy** | Legal Assistant II (he/him)

Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State
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P.O. Box 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523
Phone: 717.783.7200  Fax:717.787.0251
www.dos.pa.gov

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