



Minnesota Board of  
Marriage and Family Therapy

# **MN Rules & the Practice of Marriage & Family Therapy**

Jennifer Mohlenhoff, JD

Executive Director

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- Revised effective August 1, 2016
- First major rule revision by Board in a decade.
- Nearly every rule revised. However, majority of the revisions do not substantively impact licensure process or the practice of MFT in Minnesota.
- TOP 5: (1) Increased CEs; (2) # of years to become Board-approved supervisor; (3) Imposes application filing requirements/timeline for new licensure applicants (6 month rule); (4) Establishes 7-year timeframe to obtain LMFT licensure for new licensure applicants; (5) Updates Code of Ethics to incorporate current standards; includes provision re: electronic therapy.

## Minnesota Rule 5300

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- “Multiple Relationship” – Replaces “dual relationship.” More-current terminology; recognizes a relationship may have multiple aspects.
- “Sexual behavior” – Replaces “sexual contact.” Inappropriate conduct more expansive than just “contact.”
- “Supervisee” & “Supervisor” – defines terms as including graduate program practicum/internship, postgraduate experience period, and period required to satisfy requirement of board order

## **Definitions 5300.0100**

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- Updated to reflect current terminology and teaching emphasis in MFT graduate programs.
  - Specific reference to “child, adolescent & adult” development & mental/behavioral disorders
- NO substantive changes to graduate coursework requirements.
- Specifies practicum must include assessment & diagnosis experience.
- Specific rule added to address Degrees from Foreign Institutions (5300.0145) – formal credential evaluation report must be provided to the board.

## **Educational requirements 5300.0140**

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- NO substantive change
- 500-hour relational client contact language broadened: “...working with couples, families, *or other relational groups.*”
- Better defines requirement of client contact: “including the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness, and cognitive, emotional and behavioral disorders...”
- Allows up to 25% (50 hours) of electronic supervision
- No more than 100 hours of supervision may be logged in any 12-month period
- Eliminates notarization of supervisor verification forms

## **Experience requirements 5300.0150**

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- Applies to applicants completing educational requirements after August 1, 2016.
- Within **six months of commencement of the supervised experience**, an applicant must apply to the Board to take the national examination. Goal: To clearly establish individuals working toward licensure.
- Requires postgraduate licensure process to take no less than 2 and no more than 7 years from initial application.
- Other requirements are the same as 5300.0150 (client contact, supervision, etc.)

## **Experience requirements 5300.0155**

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- Requires LMFT licensure for at least 4 years with 4,000 hours clinical experience (increase from 3 years/3000 hours)
- Allows individual obtaining AAMFT-approved supervisor status to become Board-approved supervisor regardless of # of years of licensure.

## **Requirements for Supervisor 5300.0160**

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- Makes LAMFT licensure mandatory upon notification of passage of MFT National Examination (previously not mandatory licensure). LAMFT application must be filed within 6 months of Board notification of passage.
- LAMFT licensure not required if Application for LMFT Licensure filed within 6 months of Board notification of exam passage.

**LAMFT Licensure 5300.0175**

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- Streamlines the reciprocity licensure process for individuals continuously licensed as an LMFT in another jurisdiction for 5 years preceding application if no adverse license action.
- If 5+ years, applicant presumed to meet MN educational & supervised clinical experience requirements.
- Still must have passed MFT national exam.
- All applicants must take MN state jurisprudence exam.
- If licensed < 5 years, applicant must meet current MN educational & experience requirements for licensure.

## **Reciprocity 5300.0250**

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- Allows LAMFT license to be renewed a maximum of six times (7-year license maximum)
- Removes December 31 as defined license expiration date and establishes the license term as one year (allows for possible varying expiration dates in the future)

## **Term of License 5300.0260**

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- Removes references to notarization
- Removes references to December 31 (allowing for other, future expiration dates)
- Recognizes electronic license renewal
- Recognizes CE attestation (vs. CE reporting)
- Allows for renewal notification to be sent electronically
- Rule 5300.0290 now expressly authorizes a 30-day “late” period in which licensee can renew license after expiration date with payment of (\$50) late fee. Failure to pay after 30-day late period results in automatic license expiration.

## **License Renewal 5300.0280**

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- Increases required CE hours from 30 to 40 for each 2-year reporting period (enforced via audit for 2018-2019)
- 3 hours in “ethical and professional studies education covering professional ethics, family law, professional socialization, professional organizations, legal issues, or interprofessional cooperation” (2018-2019)
- Removes limitations on online or home study CE programs (effective immediately)
- Increase to 40 hours then increases to 4 hours the # of required CEUs in supervision for Board-approved supervisors (enforced 2018-2019)

## **Continuing Education 5300.0320**

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- Subpart 3. Conflicts. If work requirements conflict with MFT code of ethics, licensee must seek to resolve conflict in manner that results in compliance with ethical code.
- Subpart 4. Integrity.
  - Competency. Addresses how to develop competence in a service. Places burden on licensee to establish competency if raised in complaint investigation.
  - Requires licensee to pursue knowledge of new developments in MFT and maintain competence via education & training
  - Requires licensee to maintain current knowledge on use of technology in providing, training & supervising MFT

# Code of Ethics 5300.0350

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- Subp. 5. Relations to clients.
  - Expands listing of protected status for purposes of non-discrimination.
  - Clarifies that either therapist or client may terminate professional services unless prohibited by law.
  - Requires licensee, prior to commencing electronic therapy, to (1) make a finding it is appropriate for client; (2) inform client of risks/benefits; (3) ensure the security of the communication medium and compliance with all other legal requirements.
- Subp. 6. Confidentiality.
  - Better defines limits of confidentiality, including requirement to inform minor client of limitations on right to privacy of the minor.

# **Code of Ethics 5300.0350**

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- New provision. Board of Psych and BBHT – similar
- Licensee must base assessments on records, info, observations and clinical technique. Can render opinion only after therapist has conducted adequate examination
- Administration & interpretation.
  - Standardized preferred over nonstandardized
  - Administered & recorded based upon scientific foundation
- Reports
  - Specific requirements for any oral or written report, including testimony by the therapist
  - Any report must be based on information & techniques sufficient to substantiate therapist's conclusions. Unsubstantiated opinions, interpretations or recommendations are to be avoided.

## **Assessment, Tests & Reports 5300.0355**

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- By January 1, 2018, each health licensing board shall implement CBCs for new applicants.
- Board of MFT will implement by Summer 2017.
- Fingerprinting process – Federal & State record check
- Cost paid by applicant (under \$30)
- Licensees holding more than one license will be required to have more than one CBC.
- Boards required to develop plan to conduct CBC of all current licensees to be implemented in the future (?)

## **Criminal Background Checks Minn. Stat. 214.075**

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- Enacted 2015.
- Temporary license to practice issued to (1) active duty military member; (2) spouse of active duty military member; (3) veteran who has left service in 2 years preceding application.
- In effect for 6 months while applicant completes additional/other licensure requirements (education, experience, testing, etc.)

## **Expedited/Temp Licensure for Military MS 148B.33**

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- Effective January 1, 2016
- Board will authorize an approved National Exam applicant who is an English Language Learner (ELL) additional testing time (up to 2 additional hours).
- Applicant pays expense of additional time. (\$45/hour)
- ELL request form available on Board website.
- Requires additional processing time with testing company (up to 8 weeks)
- Not all jurisdictions will accept a passing National Exam score obtained with use of ELL special arrangement. Retesting may be required if seeking LMFT licensure in such a jurisdiction in the future.

## **English Language Learner Testing Arrangement**

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# QUESTIONS?

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