

A Note for Recent Graduates and Pre-licensed Practitioners

Marriage and Family Therapy is a licensed mental health profession authorized by the [MN MFT Practice Act](#). The MN MFT Practice Act prohibits the unlicensed practice of marriage and family therapy. (See [Minn. Stat. 148B.32](#).) [Minnesota Rule 5300.0120](#) further protects the title “marriage and family therapist,” as well as related titles such as “marriage therapist, family therapist, marriage and family counselor, marriage counselor and family counselor.”

The Board recommends that recent graduates and pre-licensed practitioners working in a therapy practice **do not use** the designation “MFT” after their degree on business cards, advertising materials and public websites (e.g. “John Smith, MA MFT” or “Jane Jones, MS MFT”). Usage of these letters to denote an earned graduate degree in marriage and family therapy has resulted in complaints alleging unlicensed practice of marriage and family therapy or fraudulent representation of licensure when a license to practice marriage and family therapy has not yet been issued.

As “MFT” is recognized and regularly used as an abbreviation for “Marriage and Family Therapist,” a protected practice term, its use can cause confusion by the public and be equated with licensure. Accordingly, if identification of one’s graduate degree is desired, it is recommended the initials “MFT” not be used (e.g. “Jane Jones, MA” or “John Smith, MS”). Or, one can include “MA in Marriage and Family Therapy” or “MS in Marriage and Family Therapy” to provide clear and accurate information to the public.

Statutes, rules and further information can be found on the [Board’s website](#).