

## Chapter MPSW 16

### REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSURE

**MPSW 16.01** Application for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.

**MPSW 16.015** Application for a marriage and family therapist training license.

**MPSW 16.02** Educational equivalent to a graduate degree in marriage and family

therapy from a program accredited by COAMFTE.

**MPSW 16.04** Supervised Practice.

**Note:** Chapter SFC 16 was created as an emergency rule effective April 26, 1993.  
**Note:** Chapter SFC 16 was renumbered ch. MPSW 16 under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., and corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., [Register October 2002 No. 562](#).

**MPSW 16.01 Application for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.** An applicant for a marriage and family therapist license shall submit all of the following:

(1) An application and the fee under s. 440.05, Stats.

(2) Evidence of one of the following:

(a) A master's or doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by COAMFTE.

(b) A master's or doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy, psychology, sociology, social work, professional counseling, or other mental health field that included the course work under s. [MPSW 16.02](#).

(c) A degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning that has been determined by an organization approved by the section to be equivalent to a degree from a master's or doctoral program accredited by COAMFTE. If the education was not received in English, the applicant shall demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a passing score on a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination.

(3) Evidence the applicant, after receiving a master's or doctorate degree required under sub. (2), engaged in the equivalent of at least 3,000 hours of marriage and family therapy practice, including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact, while holding a valid marriage and family therapy training license and supervised by a person qualified to supervise under s. [MPSW 16.04](#).

(4) Verification of passage of an examination approved by the marriage and family therapist section to determine minimum competence to practice marriage and family therapy.

(5) Documentation necessary for the section to determine, subject to ss. [111.321](#), [111.322](#), and [111.335](#), Stats., whether any of the following apply:

(a) The applicant has a pending charge for an exempt offense, as defined in s. [111.335 \(1m\) \(b\)](#), Stats., or a violent crime against a child, as defined in s. [111.335 \(1m\) \(d\)](#), Stats., that is substantially related to the practice of a marriage and family therapist.

(b) The applicant has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the practice of a marriage and family therapist.

**History:** Cr. [Register, November, 1993, No. 455](#), eff. 12-1-93; am. (1) (c) and (2), r. (3), [Register, November, 1999, No. 527](#), eff. 12-1-99; [CR 02-105](#): am. (1) (intro.), (1) (a) 3., (1) (b) and (d) and (2) (a) and (c), [Register October 2002 No. 562](#), eff. 11-1-02; [CR 03-090](#): am. (1) (a) 3. [Register June 2004 No. 582](#), eff. 7-1-04; [CR 15-017](#): am. (1) (b), (2) (a) [Register April 2016 No. 724](#), eff. 5-1-16; [CR 16-008](#): r. and recr. [Register January 2018 No. 745](#) eff. 2-1-18; corrections in (3) made under ss. [13.92 \(4\) \(b\) 7.](#) and [35.17](#), Stats., [Register January 2018 No. 745](#); [CR 19-116](#): r. and recr. (5) [Register May 2020 No. 773](#), eff. 6-1-20; correction in (5) (a) made under s. [35.17](#), Stats., [Register May 2020 No. 773](#).

**MPSW 16.015 Application for a marriage and family therapist training license.** (1) The marriage and family therapist section shall grant a marriage and family therapist training license to any individual who does all of the following:

(a) Submits a completed, signed application form.

(b) Pays the fee specified in s. [440.05 \(6\)](#), Stats.

(c) Submits evidence satisfactory to the marriage and family therapist section that he or she has done one of the following:

1. Satisfies the requirements in s. [457.10 \(2\)](#), Stats.

2. Is enrolled or will be enrolled in an institute for marriage and family therapy that is approved by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy or by the marriage and family therapist section.

3. Holds a graduate degree in a mental health field approved by the marriage and family therapist section and is enrolled or will be enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree program in marriage and family therapy accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education or approved by the marriage and family therapist section.

(d) Submits evidence satisfactory to the marriage and family therapist section of one of the following:

1. The applicant is in a position or has an offer for a position as a marriage and family therapist in a supervised marriage and family therapist practice.

2. The applicant is in a position or has an offer for a position in which the applicant will, in the opinion of the marriage and family therapist section, receive training and supervision equivalent to the training and supervision received in a supervised marriage and family therapist practice.

(2) A marriage and family therapist training license is valid for 48 months and may be renewed at the discretion of the marriage and family therapist section.

(3) A marriage and family therapist training license authorizes the holder to use any title specified in s. [457.04 \(5\)](#), Stats., and to practice marriage and family therapy within the practice scope of his or her training or supervision during the period in which the license is valid.

**History:** [CR 16-008](#): renum. MPSW 17.03 (title) (1), (2) to (title) (1), (2), cr. (3), [Register January 2018 No. 745](#) eff. 2-1-18.

**MPSW 16.02 Educational equivalent to a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by COAMFTE.** (1) Course work required for education to be substantially equivalent to the course work required for a master's or doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy course work from a program accredited by COAMFTE shall contain all of the following:

(a) At least 6 semester credits or 8 quarter credits in the area of foundations of relational or systemic practice, theories and models.

(b) At least 6 semester credits or 8 quarter credits in the area of clinical treatment with individuals, couples and families. This area shall include a focus on evidence based practice and content on crisis intervention.

(c) At least 3 semester credits or 4 quarter credits in the area of diverse, multicultural or underserved communities. This area shall include understanding and applying knowledge of diversity, power, privilege, or oppression.

(d) At least 3 semester credits or 4 quarter credits in the area of research and evaluation. This area shall include marriage and

family therapy research and evaluation methods and evidence-based practice.

(e) At least 3 semester credits or 4 quarter credits in the area of professional identity, federal and state law, ethics, and social responsibility.

(f) At least 3 semester credits or 4 quarter credits in the area of biopsychosocial health and development across the life span.

(g) At least 3 semester credits or 4 quarter credits in the area of systemic assessment and mental health diagnosis and treatment.

(h) At least 3 semester credits or 4 quarter credits in the area of contemporary developments which interface marriage and family therapy knowledge and practice with the broader multidisciplinary context.

(i) A clinical internship as part of an academic program in marriage and family therapy or a substantially equivalent field. The internship shall consist of a minimum of 300 hours in face-to-face contact with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis, and treatment under supervision in not less than 8 calendar months.

**(2)** An applicant may, at an institution which was accredited by its regional accrediting association at the time the course was completed, complete credit hours outside the program of studies leading to a master's or doctorate degree in order to meet the requirements in this section.

**(3)** An applicant may, at an institute for marriage and family therapy which was accredited by COAMFTE at the time the course was completed, complete credit hours outside of a program of studies leading to a master's or doctorate degree in order to meet the requirements in this section.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93; r. (4), Register, November, 1999, No. 527, eff. 12-1-99; CR 16-008: r. and recr. Register January 2018 No. 745, eff. 2-1-18; CR 19-115: r. and recr. Register May 2020 No. 773, eff. 6-1-20.

**MPSW 16.04 Supervised Practice. (1) GENERAL.** An applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist under s. 457.10, Stats., shall complete, after receiving the required master's or doctorate degree, or upon completion of a graduate degree in a mental health field approved by the marriage and family therapist section, and enrollment in a graduate degree program or other educational program in marriage and family therapy accredited by COAMFTE, 3,000 hours of supervised marriage and family therapy practice, including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact, while holding a valid marriage and family therapist training license before being eligible for licensure.

**(2) SUPERVISOR QUALIFICATIONS.** Supervision of the supervised practice of marriage and family therapy may be exercised by any of the following:

(a) An individual licensed as a marriage and family therapist who has received a doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy.

(b) An individual licensed as a marriage and family therapist who has engaged in the equivalent of 5 years of full-time marriage and family therapy practice.

(c) A psychiatrist.

(d) A psychologist licensed under ch. 455, Stats.

(e) A person who is an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy approved supervisor or supervisor candidate.

(f) An individual, other than an individual specified in par. (a) to (e), who the marriage and family therapy section approves in advance based upon evidence of experience in marriage and family therapy systems.

**(3) SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES.** The supervisor's responsibilities include all of the following:

(a) Provide one hour of face-to-face supervision for each 10 client contact hours.

(b) Permit a supervisee to engage in only marriage and family therapy services the supervisor can competently perform.

(c) Be available or make appropriate provision for emergency consultation and intervention.

(d) Be legally and ethically responsible for the supervised activities of the supervisee.

(e) Be able to interrupt or stop the supervisee from practicing in given cases, or recommend to the supervisee's employer that the employer interrupt or stop the supervisee from practicing in given cases.

(f) To terminate the supervised relationship.

**(4) GROUP SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS.** Supervision in group sessions, shall meet all of the following:

(a) The group shall consist of no more than 8 persons for every 1 person providing supervision.

(b) Each person receiving supervision as part of the group session receives one hour credit for each hour that the group meets for supervision. Time which is not directly case related may not be counted towards the supervision requirement.

(c) A supervision session for a group or individual which is provided by more than one supervisor may not be credited for more than the actual time elapsed during the supervision session.

**History:** CR 16-008: cr. Register January 2018 No. 745 eff. 2-1-18; correction in (2) (d) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register January 2018 No. 745; correction in (2) (f), (3) (a) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register January 2018 No. 745; CR 19-115: am. (1) Register May 2020 No. 773, eff. 6-1-20.