

**ADOPTED REGULATION OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND
CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

LCB File No. R163-12

Effective June 23, 2014

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1 and 3-5, NRS 641A.160; §2, NRS 641A.160 and 641A.180.

A REGULATION relating to marriage and family therapists and clinical professional counselors; revising provisions relating to the suspension and termination of supervision agreements between interns and approved supervisors; revising provisions concerning courses of study for marriage and family therapists and marriage and family therapist interns; revising provisions concerning the extension of internships; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors to adopt regulations: (1) not inconsistent with chapter 641A of NRS governing the Board's procedure, the examination and licensing of applicants, the granting, refusal, revocation or suspension of licenses, and the practices of marriage and family therapy and clinical professional counseling as those practices apply to chapter 641A of NRS; and (2) specifying the criteria for courses of study that are sufficient for the purposes of licensing. (NRS 641A.160, 641A.180)

Section 1 of this regulation requires an approved supervisor or intern to request approval from the Board to terminate a supervision agreement between the approved supervisor and intern and provides various requirements relating to such termination. **Section 1** also authorizes an approved supervisor or intern to suspend a supervision agreement immediately in certain circumstances but requires the approved supervisor or intern to notify the Board of such suspension in writing not more than 5 days after the date of suspension.

Existing regulations require an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist or marriage and family therapist intern to complete courses in certain areas of study, including the supervised practice of marriage and family therapy, during the applicant's graduate education in marriage and family therapy. (NAC 641A.085) **Section 2** of this regulation requires that courses in the supervised practice of marriage and family therapy include clinical experience working with individuals, couples and families.

Existing regulations also require that an internship in marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling be approved by the Board and completed within 3 years after such approval. (NAC 641A.146) **Section 3** of this regulation sets forth provisions relating to an extension of such an internship. Existing regulations additionally require an intern in marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling to submit to the Board a written report from the intern's approved supervisor evaluating the internship. The Board may terminate the license of an intern who fails to file such a report. (NAC 641A.146) **Section 3** sets forth certain requirements for an intern whose license has been terminated.

Section 4 of this regulation revises certain provisions concerning approved supervisors of interns in marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling and the supervision of such interns, and **section 5** of this regulation updates information pertaining to the *AAMFT Code of Ethics* of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and the *Code of Ethics* of the National Board for Certified Counselors.

Section 1. Chapter 641A of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. If an approved supervisor or intern wishes to terminate a supervision agreement, the approved supervisor or intern must request approval from the Board to terminate the supervision agreement. Termination of a supervision agreement must not occur until the Board has approved the request for termination, and must be accomplished in such a way that:

(a) Ensures compliance with the provisions of this chapter and chapter 641A of NRS;
(b) Prevents hardship to clients;
(c) Minimizes any risks to the approved supervisor; and
(d) Gives the intern a reasonable amount of time to have a new internship approved by the Board.

2. If an approved supervisor requests approval from the Board to terminate a supervision agreement, the approved supervisor shall notify the intern whose supervision is being terminated as soon as practicable after requesting such approval.

3. When the Board receives a request for approval to terminate a supervision agreement, the Board will consider approving the request for termination at the next meeting of the Board. If the Board approves the termination of a supervision agreement, the approved supervisor shall:

(a) If the approved supervisor is the primary approved supervisor and the intern is unable to establish a new supervision agreement, provide guidance to the intern relating to the termination of the therapeutic relationship with clients; and

(b) Complete and submit, along with the notification required pursuant to NRS 641A.2878 or 641A.2888 and on a form provided by the Board, a report which shows the intern's hours of supervised experience claimed through the date of termination of the supervision agreement.

4. An approved supervisor or intern may immediately suspend a supervision agreement if the approved supervisor is unable to provide supervision for personal reasons, including, without limitation, serious illness. An approved supervisor also may immediately suspend a supervision agreement if an intern is unable or unwilling to perform clinical duties or participate in supervision in a manner that complies with the supervision agreement or the provisions of this chapter or chapter 641A of NRS. The person suspending a supervision agreement pursuant to this subsection shall notify the Board of such suspension in writing not more than 5 days after the date of suspension.

Sec. 2. NAC 641A.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.085 1. To qualify for licensure as a marriage and family therapist or marriage and family therapist intern, an applicant's graduate education in marriage and family therapy must include the following areas of study:

Area of Study	Minimum Number of Courses	Minimum Number of Semester Hours of Credit	Minimum Number of Quarter Hours of Credit
Human Development, including			
Issues of Sexuality	2	6	8
Marital and Family Systems	2	6	8
Marital and Family Therapy	3	9	12
Ethical and Legal Issues in Marriage and Family Therapy	1	3	4
Supervised Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy	3	9	12
Diagnosis and Assessment (including the use of the <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i>)	1	3	4
Research	1	3	4
Abuse of Alcohol or Controlled Substances	1	3	4

2. To qualify for licensure as a clinical professional counselor or clinical professional counselor intern, an applicant's graduate education in clinical professional counseling must include the following areas of study:

Area of Study	Minimum Number of Courses	Minimum Number of Semester Hours of Credit	Minimum Number of Quarter Hours of Credit
Human Growth and Development	1	3	4
Individual Counseling Theories	1	3	4
Individual Counseling Techniques and Practice	1	3	4
Lifestyle and Career Development	1	3	4
Group Dynamics, Counseling and Consulting	1	3	4
Ethics and Professional Studies	1	3	4
Supervised Practice of Clinical Professional Counseling	3	9	12
Diagnosis and Assessment (including the use of the <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i>)	1	3	4
Social and Cultural Foundations	1	3	4
Research and Evaluation	1	3	4
Abuse of Alcohol or Controlled Substances	1	3	4

3. *The courses in the supervised practice of marriage and family therapy required pursuant to subsection 1 must include clinical experience working with individuals, couples and families. An applicant will not fulfill the course requirement for the supervised practice of marriage and family therapy if all of his or her clinical experience involves working only with individuals.*

4. The courses in the supervised practice of marriage and family therapy and clinical professional counseling required pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 must include three courses taken during three semesters or four courses taken during four quarters over a minimum of 1 year.

~~14.1~~ 5. For a graduate degree to fulfill the educational requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, clinical professional counselor or intern pursuant to this section, the degree must require at least 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours.

~~15.1~~ 6. The Board will consider only courses completed at the graduate level for fulfillment of the educational requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, clinical professional counselor or intern.

~~16.1~~ 7. A course may not be used to satisfy the requirements for more than one area of study set forth in subsection 1 or 2.

~~17.1~~ 8. The Board may consider:

(a) Graduate degrees in fields related to mental health which are comparable to degrees in marriage and family therapy, counseling or mental health counseling and which meet the requirements for course content listed in subsection 1 or 2, regardless of the terminology used in the degree granted by the educational institution, as fulfilling the educational requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, clinical professional counselor or intern.

(b) Years of clinical experience as a *licensed* marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor in lieu of specific academic courses . ~~in the supervised practice of marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling, in diagnosis and assessment, or in the abuse of alcohol or controlled substances.~~

Sec. 3. NAC 641A.146 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.146 1. An internship must be:

- (a) Approved by the Board before the applicant begins the internship; and
- (b) Completed within 3 years after the Board approves the internship.

2. An intern shall, on or before September 15 and March 15 of each year, submit to the Board a written report from the approved supervisor evaluating his or her internship. The Board may terminate the license of any intern who fails to file such a written report. *An intern who has his or her license terminated pursuant to this subsection:*

(a) Shall submit to the Board the reasons for his or her failure to file the written report; and

(b) Must reapply for a new internship in accordance with all applicable provisions of law in place at the time of reapplication.

3. *If an intern does not complete an internship within 3 years after the Board approves the internship pursuant to subsection 1, the intern must request an extension of the internship from the Board. The Board may only grant one 3-year extension of the internship. If the Board grants an extension of an internship pursuant to this subsection and an intern fails to complete the internship successfully within 3 years after the Board grants the extension, the intern:*

(a) Shall submit to the Board the reasons for his or her failure to complete the internship successfully; and

(b) Must reapply for a new internship in accordance with all applicable provisions of law in place at the time of reapplication.

4. To obtain the hours of supervised experience required pursuant to NRS 641A.220 or 641A.231, an intern must complete:

(a) At least 1,500 hours of direct contact with clients in the practice of marriage and family therapy or the practice of clinical professional counseling, as applicable;

(b) At least 300 hours of marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling, as applicable, that is supervised by the primary approved supervisor or secondary approved supervisor of the intern, including:

(1) At least 160 hours supervised by the primary approved supervisor of the intern; and

(2) At least 40 hours supervised by the secondary approved supervisor of the intern; and

(c) At least 1,200 hours of work related to the practice of marriage and family therapy or the practice of clinical professional counseling, as applicable, including:

(1) Not more than 500 hours which consist of direct contact with clients in the practice of marriage and family therapy or the practice of clinical professional counseling, as applicable, that is performed in conjunction with a graduate program of study;

(2) Not more than 300 hours of leading group therapy or counseling sessions;

(3) Not more than 200 hours of teaching, including, but not limited to, leading sessions for parent or family education, leading workshops or participating in other teaching activities, which are:

(I) Approved by the primary approved supervisor of the intern; and

(II) Documented;

(4) Not more than 150 hours of individual counseling or therapy which the intern personally receives from a licensed mental health professional who is not the approved supervisor of the intern; and

(5) Not more than 50 hours of training approved by the primary approved supervisor of the intern, including, but not limited to:

(I) Graduate course work at a university; or

(II) Attendance at a workshop related to the practice of marriage and family therapy or the practice of clinical professional counseling.

~~14.1~~ **5.** Credit must not be given for experience gained by a person before the person was licensed as an intern pursuant to the provisions of NAC 641A.156.

~~15.1~~ **6.** As used in this section, “mental health professional” means a person licensed in the State of Nevada as a psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, clinical professional counselor or clinical social worker.

Sec. 4. NAC 641A.182 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.182 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, an approved supervisor of an intern must be a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor. Each potential supervisor must offer evidence satisfactory to the Board of his or her training or experience, or both, which qualifies him or her to supervise.

2. In extenuating circumstances, the Board may approve as a secondary supervisor a person who is a licensed psychologist, psychiatrist or social worker who has received training in supervision.

3. Each supervisor must:

- (a) Have been licensed *in this State* for at least 3 years.
- (b) Not be related to the intern by closer than the fourth degree of consanguinity.
- (c) Have never professionally provided mental health therapy to the intern.
- (d) Maintain liability insurance covering the supervision.
- (e) Be approved by the Board.
- (f) Agree to be available to consult with the Board concerning the professional record, competence in practice, and emotional and mental stability or professional and ethical conduct of the intern.

4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, each potential primary supervisor must provide evidence satisfactory to the Board of completion of:

- (a) Supervisory training that consists of:
 - (1) At least one graduate-level course taught by an instructor deemed appropriate by the Board, which includes at least 45 ~~semester~~ *clock* hours on the supervision of the practice of marriage and family therapy or the practice of clinical professional counseling, as applicable; or
 - (2) A professional training program on supervision taught by an instructor deemed appropriate by the Board, which is provided by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy or the National Board for Certified Counselors, as applicable; and

- (b) At least 25 hours of ~~supervisory experience~~ *mentored supervision*.

5. In lieu of providing evidence satisfactory to the Board of the completion of supervisory training and supervisory experience as required pursuant to subsection 4, a potential supervisor may provide evidence satisfactory to the Board that he or she has obtained and maintained, as applicable:

- (a) A designation as an “Approved Supervisor” or “Supervisor Candidate” from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; or
- (b) A credential as an “Approved Clinical Supervisor” from the National Board for Certified Counselors.

Sec. 5. NAC 641A.252 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.252 1. The Board hereby adopts by reference:

(a) The *AAMFT Code of Ethics* of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as it existed on July 1, ~~2001~~, **2012**, as a standard for professional conduct in the State of Nevada for marriage and family therapists and marriage and family therapist interns, excluding those provisions which apply exclusively to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

(b) The *Code of Ethics* of the National Board for Certified Counselors as it existed on ~~October 8, 2005~~, **March 1, 2013**, as a standard for professional conduct in the State of Nevada for clinical professional counselors and clinical professional counselor interns, excluding those provisions which apply exclusively to the National Board for Certified Counselors.

2. The *AAMFT Code of Ethics* is available, free of charge, from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy by mail at 112 South Alfred Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3061, by telephone at (703) 838-9808 or on the Internet at ~~http://www.aamft.org/resources/LRM_Plan/Ethics/ethicscode2001.asp~~ <http://www.aamft.org>.

3. The *Code of Ethics* of the National Board for Certified Counselors is available, free of charge, from the National Board for Certified Counselors by mail at 3 Terrace Way, Greensboro, North Carolina 27403-3660, by telephone at (336) 547-0607 or on the Internet at <http://www.nbcc.org/ethics>.

4. A violation of the provisions of a code of ethics adopted by reference pursuant to this section constitutes cause for disciplinary action.