

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

Explanation- Matter that is *italicized* is new; matter in brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: NRS 641A.160

A REGULATION relating to the Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors; adding the provisions governing licensing, continuing education, interns, professional conduct and administrative proceedings related to clinical professional counselors; amending the provisions governing licensing, continuing education, interns, professional conduct and administrative proceedings related to marriage and family therapists; and providing other matters properly related thereto.

Section 1. Chapter 641A of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive of this regulation.

Sec. 2. “Practice of clinical professional counseling” defined. *“Practice of clinical professional counseling” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 641A.065.*

Sec. 3. “Practice of marriage and family therapy defined. *“Practice of marriage and family therapy” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 641A.080.*

Sec. 4. “Counselor” defined. *“Counselor” means a person who is licensed by the Board as a clinical professional counselor.*

Sec. 5. “MFT” defined. *“MFT” means marriage and family therapy.*

Sec. 6. “CPC” defined. *“CPC” means clinical professional counseling.*

Sec. 7. “Mental Health Professional” defined. *“Mental Health Professional” means a professional licensed in Nevada as a psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, clinical professional counselor, or clinical social worker.*

Sec. 8. NAC 641A.035 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.035 Definitions. (NRS 641A.160) As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. ~~["Board" means the Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists]~~ *“Board” has the same meaning ascribed to it in NRS 641A.030.*
2. “Candidate” means a person seeking ~~[registration as an intern]~~ *licensure as an intern.*
3. ~~["Clinical practice" means the use of personal interaction, the theory of systems and other methods to solve problems of individual clients or regarding their marital or family relationships, or both.]~~

4. “Intern” means a person who holds a ~~[master’s degree marriage and family therapy]~~ *graduate degree in marriage and family therapy or mental health counseling or community counseling*, or an equivalent degree from an accredited university, ~~[whose registration by the Board has been approved]~~ *who has entered into a supervision agreement with an approved supervisor that has been approved by the Board.*

5. “Internship” means an approved program of supervised and documented experience in clinical practice.

6. “License” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 641A.040.

7. ~~["Supervisor" means a marriage and family therapist who supervises an intern.]~~ *“Approved Supervisor” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 641A.025.*

8. “Therapist” means a person who is licensed by the Board as a marriage and family therapist.

Sec. 9. NAC 641A.065 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.065 Application for license ~~[for registration]~~: Filing; action by Board. (NRS 641A.160)

1. Any person desiring licensure ~~[for registration]~~ by the Board must submit or have submitted to the Board:

(a) An application completed on the forms provided by the Board;

(b) Official transcripts from each institution of higher education he attended which are sent directly to the Board from the institution;

(c) A total of three letters of personal or professional reference, or both, written by persons not related to the applicant which are addressed and sent directly to the Board;

(d) A ~~[photograph of the applicant which has been taken within 12 months before the date of the application; and]~~ *copy of the applicant’s current driver’s license or government issued identification;*

(e) A written summary by the applicant of his experiences and qualifications for licensing, including documentation of his internship and recommendations from supervisors or any person approved by the Board~~[;]~~ *and*

(f) A complete set of fingerprints and written permission authorizing the Board to forward those fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its report. The Board may exchange with the Federal Bureau of Investigation any information relating to the fingerprints of an applicant pursuant to this section.

2. To have the Board act upon his application for a license at a scheduled meeting, the applicant must have filed his completed application with the Board at least 10 working days before that meeting. For good cause, the Board may allow an applicant to present material at its meeting in addition to the materials which he has previously submitted to the Board.

3. By submitting his application, an applicant grants the Board full authority to make any investigation or personal contact necessary to verify the authenticity of the matters and information stated within his application. If the Board so requests, the applicant must supply such a verification.

4. The Board may appoint a subcommittee to examine an application and conduct interviews before the Board’s meeting and to make recommendations for its action.

5. The Board may require the personal appearance of the applicant.

6. The same application which is filed for ~~[registration]~~ licensure as an intern ~~[must be refiled with]~~ *will be used by the Board for licensure as a marriage and family therapist or clinical*

professional counselor upon completion of the internship. ~~[along with the completion of any portions of the application which are required for licensure.]~~

7. Any person desiring licensure must have passed the requisite examinations as described in NRS 641A.230 or NRS 641A.231.

8. Any person licensed as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor in another state shall provide evidence of such licensure and evidence of good standing.

Sec. 10. NAC 641A.075 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.075 Qualifications of applicant: Degrees from accredited institutions. (NRS 641A.160)

For the purposes of qualifying for licensure, each applicant's ~~[undergraduate and]~~ graduate degree[s] must be from an institution which has been accredited by a recognized regional accrediting organization.

Sec. 11. NAC 641A.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.085 Qualifications of applicant: Courses of study. (NRS 641A.160, 641A.180)

1. To qualify ~~[to take the written examination]~~ for licensure *as a marriage and family therapy intern or marriage and family therapist*, an applicant's graduate education in marriage and family therapy must include the following areas of study:

Area of Study	<i>Minimum</i> Number of Courses	Minimum Number of Semester Hours of Credit	Minimum Number of Quarter Hours of Credit
Human Development, including Issues of Sexuality	2 [4]	6 [12]	8 [16]
Marital and Family Systems	2 [4]	6 [12]	8 [16]
Marital and Family Therapy	3 [5]	9 [20]	12 [20]
[Ethics and Professional Studies] <i>Ethical and Legal Issues in MFT</i>	1	3	4
Supervised Clinical Practice <i>in MFT</i>	3	9	12
Diagnosis and Assessment <i>(including the use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual)</i>	1	3 [4]	4
Research	1	3	4
Abuse of Alcohol or Controlled Substances	1	3	4

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

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

2. The courses in supervised clinical practice *in MFT or CPC* required pursuant to subsection 1 must include three courses taken during three semesters or *four courses taken during* four quarters over a minimum of 1 year.

3. ~~The applicant must have completed at least 45 semester hours of graduate credit in courses relating to the areas of study described in subsection 1 before taking the written examination for licensure.~~ *The graduate degree awarded must require a minimum of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours.*

4. The Board may consider *mental health related* graduate degrees which are comparable to degrees in marriage and family therapy, ~~psychology or social work, and~~ *counseling, or mental*

health counseling, which meet the requirements for course content listed in subsection 1 regardless of the terminology used in the degree granted by the educational institution.

5. Each course taken will count toward only one area of study.

6. Only graduate level courses will count toward the educational requirements.

7. The Board may consider years of clinical experience as a licensed marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor in lieu of specific academic courses in supervised clinical practice in MFT or CPC or diagnosis and assessment.

Sec. 12. NAC 641A.111 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.111 Interim permit. (NRS 641A.160)

1. The Board will, after verifying that an applicant for licensure meets the requirements of **NRS 641A.220 or NRS 641A.231** and holds an *active*, equivalent license in good standing from another jurisdiction, issue an interim permit authorizing the applicant to practice as a therapist *or counselor*, under the supervision of a person approved by the Board, until the results of the examination required by **NRS 641A.230 or NRS 641A.231** are received.

2. If the applicant does not pass the examination, the interim permit expires upon notification by the Board. The interim permit is not renewable.

Sec. 13. NAC 641A.131 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.131 Requirements to renew license; failure to comply. (NRS 641A.160)

1. To maintain his licensure, a therapist or *counselor* must ~~attend at least 40~~ *obtain at least 20* hours of continuing education every ~~2-years~~ *year*.

2. A therapist or *counselor* shall not use more than ~~15~~ *10* hours of distance education to satisfy the requirements of subsection 1.

3. A therapist or *counselor* is subject to disciplinary action by the Board if he fails to satisfy the requirements for continuing education.

4. As used in this section, “distance education” means education, training, courses or programs that are delivered to a student who is geographically separate from the instructor.

5. Continuing education may also be accrued when the licensee teaches in programs such as institutions, seminars, workshops, or conferences, when the content is therapy related and is not a part of the licensee’s regular employment. Two hours of continuing education may be credited for each hour taught.

6. A minimum of 3 hours of continuing education hours must be in ethics issues specifically pertaining to the practice of marriage and family therapy or professional counseling.

7. Approved supervisors are required to complete a minimum of 1 hour of continuing education in therapy or counseling supervision every year. Continuing education in therapy or counseling supervision is acceptable if it addresses issues specifically related to the practice of therapy or counseling supervision. Supervisor continuing education must include one or more of the following knowledge areas:

- a. Overview of a supervision model;*
- b. Supervisors’ areas of focus and roles in supervision;*
- c. Supervisors’ process and practical application;*
- d. Ethical dilemmas involved in therapy or counseling supervision;*
- e. Methods of effectively addressing and preventing ethical dilemmas in therapy or counseling supervision; or*

f. Overview of supervision standards of American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, National Board of Certified Counselors, Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, or Nevada rules and regulations related to the practice and supervision of marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling.

8. An inactive licensee must complete at 20 hours of continuing education in the year immediately preceding his application for reactivation before his license can be reactivated.

Sec. 14. NAC 641A.133 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.133 Evidence of completion. (NRS 641A.160)

1. An application for the renewal of a license must be accompanied by an affidavit *and Continuing Education Reporting Form* evidencing the completion by the therapist or *counselor* of at least ~~[the minimum number of]~~ 20 hours of continuing education required pursuant to NAC 641A.131 during the ~~[2 years]~~ year immediately preceding the date of the ~~[application]~~ *renewal expiration*.

2. A therapist or *counselor* shall maintain sufficient documentation verifying the information which he includes in his affidavit relating to his continuing education for at least 3 years after the date on which the affidavit is executed. A therapist or *counselor* will not be given credit for any hours of continuing education that are not supported by documentation.

3. The Board may audit such affidavits *and Continuing Education Reporting Forms* as the Board deems necessary to verify the authenticity of the information set forth in the affidavit.

Sec. 15. NAC 641A.146 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.146 Experience required for license *as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor*; written reports from supervisor. (NRS 641A.160)

1. Except as otherwise provided in NAC 641A.111, before an applicant is eligible for licensure as a ~~[therapist]~~ *marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor*, he must complete at least 3,000 hours of experience *as a licensed marriage and family therapy intern or clinical professional counseling intern* in an approved internship. The internship to provide the experience must be:

(a) Approved by the Board before the applicant begins the internship; and

(b) Completed within ~~[6]~~ 3 years after the Board approves the internship.

2. ~~[An extension of that period may be granted at the Board's discretion. An extension is valid only for the period specified by the Board.]~~ An intern license may be renewed not more than once.

3. An intern shall, on or before September 15 and March 15 of each year, submit to the Board a written report from his supervisor evaluating his internship. The Board may terminate the ~~[registration]~~ *licensure* of any intern who fails to file such a written report.

4. To satisfy the requirements of subsection 1, an intern must complete:

(a) At least 1,500 hours ~~[, completed at a rate not to exceed 20 hours per week,]~~ of direct contact with clients in the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling*;

(b) At least 300 hours of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* ~~[that is supervised]~~ *supervision* by the primary supervisor or secondary supervisor of the intern, including:

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

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

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

(1) ~~[In addition to the requirements of paragraph (a), direct contact with clients in the practice of marriage and family therapy [that is:] or clinical professional counseling that is supervised by the primary supervisor of the intern;]~~

~~[(I) Supervised by the primary supervisor of the intern; and~~

~~— (II) Completed at a rate not to exceed 20 hours per week;]~~

(2) ~~[In addition to the requirements of paragraph (a), not more than 500 hours which consist of]~~ A maximum of 500 direct contact hours with clients in the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* that is *performed in conjunction with a graduate program of study*[-];

~~(I) [Performed in conjunction with a graduate program of study;]~~

~~(II) [Supervised by the primary supervisor or secondary supervisor of the intern; and]~~

~~(III) [Completed at a rate not to exceed 20 hours per week;]~~

(3) ~~[In addition to the requirements of paragraph (b), not more than 300 hours of marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling that are supervised by the primary supervisor or secondary supervisor of the intern;]~~

(4) ~~[Not more than]~~ A maximum of 300 hours of leading group *therapy or* counseling sessions;

(5) ~~[Not more than]~~ A maximum of 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 supervisor of the intern; and

(II) Documented;

(6) ~~[Not more than]~~ A maximum of 150 hours of individual counseling or therapy which the intern personally receives from a licensed mental health professional who is not the supervisor of the intern; and

(7) ~~[Not more than]~~ A maximum of 50 hours of training approved by the primary 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 clinical professional counseling*.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, credit must not be given for experience gained by a person before the person ~~[registered]~~ *was licensed* as an intern pursuant to the provisions of NAC 641A.156. ~~[Credit may be given for hours received as part of a graduate program of study.]~~

Sec. 16. NAC 641A.156 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.156 ~~[Registration]~~ *Licensure as an Intern*: Requirements; issuance of ~~[certificate]~~ *Intern License*. (NRS 641A.160)

1. ~~[Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a]~~ A candidate must:

(a) Satisfy the requirements of NAC 641A.065, ~~[and]~~ 641A.075, *and 641A.085*;

(b) Submit to the Board a proposed plan for internship, including the name of the proposed supervisors;

(c) Complete a personal interview and, if requested by the Board, pass an oral examination conducted by the Board; and

(d) Pass the examination required by NRS 641A.230 *or* NRS 641A.231, *based on the following:*

(1) *A marriage and family therapy intern may elect to sit for the exam after completing one year as intern or prior to the expiration of his internship license.*

(2) *A clinical professional counseling intern may sit for the exam in his final semester of graduate study or prior to the expiration of his internship license.*

2. The Board will issue a ~~[certificate of registration]~~ *license* as an intern in the State of Nevada to each qualified candidate ~~[who receives a passing score on the examination]~~ *upon Board approval of his proposed internship plan.*

3. ~~[A person who began an internship before April 1, 1995, may elect to sit for the written examination required pursuant to NRS 641A.230 either before or upon completion of his internship.]~~

Sec. 17. NAC 641A.176 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.176 Authority of Board to grant, deny, suspend or revoke ~~[registration]~~ *licensure*; applicability of ethical standards; authority of Board to approve or deny supervisor. (NRS 641A.160)

1. The Board may, for good cause shown, grant, deny, suspend or revoke the ~~[registration]~~ *licensure* of internship of any person.

2. An intern is subject to the same standards of professional ethics as a ~~[therapist]~~ *licensed therapist or counselor.*

3. The Board may, for good cause shown, approve, deny or revoke the proposed supervisor of any intern.

Sec. 18. NAC 641A.178 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.178 Supervision of interns: Primary and secondary supervisors; limitation on number of interns; time required for supervision. (NRS 641A.160)

1. *Prior to beginning internship, each* ~~[Each]~~ intern must have at least two supervisors approved by the Board. During the course of the supervision of the intern:

(a) The primary supervisor shall meet with the intern for at least 160 hours to discuss and evaluate the performance of the intern; and

(b) The secondary supervisor shall meet with the intern for at least 40 hours.

2. Unless otherwise authorized by the Board, not more than:

(a) Six interns may be placed under the supervision of any primary supervisor at one time; and

(b) Ten interns may be placed under the supervision of any secondary supervisor at one time.

3. The time required for supervision includes the time devoted to:

(a) Meetings between the supervisor and the intern where videotapes or audiotapes are reviewed;

(b) Therapy sessions in which the supervisor participates;

(c) Therapy sessions in which the supervisor observes the session from a location whereby the supervisor is neither seen nor heard; or

(d) The presentation of a case by the intern and a discussion by the supervisor of the proper management and treatment of the case.

4. The time required for supervision does not include the time devoted to attendance at seminars, workshops or classes.

5. In extenuating circumstances, the Board may approve the use of conference calls as supervision.

Sec. 19. NAC 641A.182 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.182 Supervisors: Qualifications. (NRS 641A.160)

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a supervisor of an intern must be a ~~therapist~~ *licensed marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor* and offer evidence to the Board of his training or experience, or both, which qualifies him 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 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) Complete on-going continuing education in the practice of supervision[-];

(e) Maintain current liability insurance that covers the practice of supervision[-];

(f) Be approved by the Board; and

~~[(d)]~~ (g) Agree to be available to consult with the Board concerning the professional record, competence in clinical practice, and emotional and mental stability or professional and ethical conduct of the intern.

4. ~~[Each primary supervisor must be designated by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as a supervisor or supervisor candidate.]~~ *Each primary supervisor must:*

(a) Provide documentation/verification of supervision training and experience in one of two ways stated below:

i. Graduate-level Academic Training. At least one graduate-level academic course in marriage and family therapy or counseling supervision. The course must have included at least 45 clock hours (three semester hour course equivalent) in supervision training, provided by an instructor with the appropriate credentials and experience; or

ii. Professional Training. An American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) or National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) approved professional training program in supervision, provided by a supervisor with the appropriate credentials and experience.

(b) Provide documentation of the completion of at least 25 hours of supervision of supervision experience.

5. *In lieu of providing documentation of supervision training and experience and supervision of supervision experience, a supervisor may provide the following:*

(a) Documentation that he has obtained and maintains the AAMFT Approved Supervisor or Approved Supervisor Candidate designation.

(b) Documentation that he has obtained and maintains the NBCC Approved Clinical Supervisor Credential.

6. *Approved supervisors must complete a minimum of 1 hour of continuing education, every year, in therapy or counseling supervision.*

Sec. 20. NAC 641A.186 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.186 Limitations on performing therapy. (NRS 641A.160)

An intern may perform marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* only under the supervision of a therapist *or counselor* and in accordance with his approved plan for internship.

Sec. 21. NAC 641A.196 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.196 Restrictions on private practice and advertising. (NRS 641A.160)

1. An intern may engage in private practice only at facilities which have a licensed therapist, *counselor, clinical alcohol and drug counselor*, psychologist, psychiatrist or social worker on the site.

2. An intern shall inform each of his clients that he is not ~~[a licensed therapist]~~ *licensed to practice independently*.

3. An intern shall include a statement describing his status as an intern on all forms of advertising, including, but not limited to, business cards, directory listings and brochures.

4. In extenuating circumstances, the Board may approve a site without a licensed mental health professional providing other acceptable arrangements for supervision in emergency situations have been established.

Sec. 22. NAC 641A.243 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.243 Professional responsibility. (NRS 641A.160)

A therapist, *counselor*, or intern:

1. Shall not misrepresent, in advertising or otherwise, his education, training, type of license ~~[or certificate]~~, qualifications, competence or service, or the results to be achieved if he provides service to a client.

2. Shall not engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* while he is impaired by:

(a) Alcohol, drugs or any other chemical; or

(b) A mental or physical condition that prevents him from safely engaging in the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling*.

3. Shall not use his relationship with a client to further his own personal, religious, political or business interests.

4. Shall set and maintain professional boundaries with clients, interns and persons with whom he works.

5. Shall not give or receive, directly or indirectly, a fee, commission, rebate or other compensation for professional services that he has not actually and personally provided.

6. Shall not knowingly offer service to a client who is receiving treatment from another therapist, *counselor*, or intern, or a licensee ~~[or holder of a certificate]~~ issued by any other similar board, without prior consultation between the client and the other therapist, ~~[intern, licensee or holder of a certificate]~~ *counselor, licensee or intern*.

7. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 8, shall not disparage the qualifications of any colleague.

8. Shall report to the Board any unlicensed, unauthorized, unqualified or unethical practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* that is occurring.

9. Shall not attempt to diagnose, prescribe for, treat or provide advice for any problem which is outside of his field of competence, the scope of the practice of marriage and family therapy or *clinical professional counseling*, or the scope of his license ~~{or certificate}~~.

10. Shall base his practice upon the recognized knowledge relevant to marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling*.

11. Shall critically examine and keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling*.

12. Based upon recognized knowledge and standards for the practice of marriage and family therapy *and clinical professional counseling*, shall prepare and maintain in a timely manner a record for each of his clients which:

(a) Sets forth his assessment of the problems of the client, plan of action for the client, course of treatment for the client and progress notes regarding the course of treatment of the client; and

(b) Includes copies of other relevant documentation, including, without limitation:

(1) All documents relating to the informed consent given by the client;

(2) All documents relating to the release of information regarding the client; and

(3) All other legal documents regarding the client.

As used in this subsection, "assessment" means an evaluation of the ~~{patterns of interaction and}~~ impairment in the functioning of a client *or clients* that is based upon comprehensive information about the client(s).

13. Shall complete and submit any reports required by this chapter and [chapter 641A](#) of NRS, or pursuant to any rule, order or instruction of a court of competent jurisdiction, in a timely manner.

14. Shall comply with the provisions of this chapter and [chapter 641A](#) of NRS and all other applicable federal laws and regulations.

15. Shall not authorize a person under the supervision of the therapist *or counselor* to perform services that are outside of the scope of the license, ~~{certificate of registration}~~, training or experience of the person performing the services, or allow such a person to hold himself out as having expertise in a field or activity in which that person is not qualified.

16. Shall notify the Board in writing within 10 days after:

(a) An action is taken against any license, certification, registration or other credential held by the therapist, *counselor*, or intern that was issued by another state or territory of the United States;

(b) A criminal charge is filed against the therapist, *counselor*, or intern;

(c) The therapist, *counselor*, or intern is convicted of a criminal offense, other than a traffic offense which is a misdemeanor that does not involve alcohol or controlled substances;

(d) A civil action, including, without limitation, an action for malpractice, is filed against the therapist, *counselor*, or intern; or

(e) A settlement or judgment is made in any civil action, including, without limitation, an action for malpractice, in any case filed against the therapist, *counselor*, or intern for any act relating to the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling*.

Sec. 23. NAC 641A.247 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.247 Responsibilities to clients and others. ([NRS 641A.160](#))

1. A therapist, *counselor*, or intern shall serve his clients with professional skill and competence.

2. If a therapist, *counselor*, or intern must act on behalf of a client who has been declared to be incompetent or if a client is otherwise found by the Board to be incapable of acting in his own best interest, the therapist, *counselor* or intern shall safeguard the interests and rights of that client.

3. If another person has been legally authorized to act on behalf of an incompetent client, a therapist, *counselor*, or intern shall deal with the legal representative of the client in accordance with the best interest of the client.

4. A therapist, *counselor*, or intern shall not practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, social, economic, health or marital status, political belief, diagnosis or physical disability, or on the basis of any preference or personal characteristic, condition or status of a person.

5. A therapist, *counselor*, or intern shall not misrepresent to a client the efficacy of his service or the results to be achieved.

6. A therapist, *counselor*, or intern shall apprise each of his clients of the risks, rights, opportunities and obligations, financial or otherwise, associated with the provision of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* to the client.

7. A therapist, *counselor*, or intern shall seek the advice and counsel of his colleagues and supervisors when such a consultation is in the best interest of the client.

8. A therapist, *counselor*, or intern shall terminate service to a client and a professional relationship with a client when the service and relationship are no longer required or no longer serve the needs of the client.

9. A therapist, *counselor*, or intern shall not withdraw his counseling services precipitously, except under unusual circumstances and after giving careful consideration to all factors in the situation and taking care to minimize possible adverse effects to the client.

10. A therapist, *counselor*, or intern who anticipates the termination or interruption of service to a client shall notify the client as promptly as possible and seek the transfer, referral or continuation of service in relation to the needs and preferences of the client.

11. A therapist, *counselor*, or intern shall not influence or attempt to influence a client in any manner which could be reasonably anticipated in his deriving benefits of an unprofessional nature from the client during the time that the client is receiving marriage and family therapy from the therapist, *clinical professional counseling from the counselor, or marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling from an* intern and for 2 years after the termination of those services.

12. Throughout the period of treatment of a client and for the 2 years immediately following the termination of the professional relationship between the client and the therapist, *counselor*, or intern treating the client, the therapist, *counselor*, or intern shall not:

(a) Enter into a close personal relationship with the client, including, without limitation, sponsorship of the client in a group for self-help, or a romantic or sexual relationship;

(b) Enter into, or attempt to enter into, a financial relationship with the client that is unrelated to the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling*; or

(c) Enter into a romantic or sexual relationship with any person who was in a romantic or sexual relationship with the client during the time that the therapist, *counselor*, or intern was providing marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* to the client.

13. Within the 2 years immediately following the termination of a professional relationship with, internship for or supervision of a client, intern or other person, a therapist *or counselor*

shall not solicit or enter into a dual relationship with the client, intern or other person if it is foreseeable that such a relationship would harm or exploit the client, intern or other person.

Sec. 24. NAC 641A.252 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.252 *Code of Ethics*: Adoption by reference; effect of violation. (NRS 641A.160)

1. The Board hereby adopts by reference the ~~[Code of Ethics of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as it existed on July 1, 2003, as a standard for professional conduct in the State of Nevada excluding those provisions which apply exclusively to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. A violation of the provisions of the Code constitutes cause for disciplinary action.]~~ *ethical codes for the respective professions:*

a. The Code of Ethics of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as it existed on July 1, 2001, 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, as a standard for professional conduct in the State of Nevada for clinical professional counselors and clinical professional counseling interns, excluding those provisions which apply exclusively to the National Board for Certified Counselors.

2. The *Code of Ethics* of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy is available 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/about/ethics.htm]~~ *<http://www.aamft.org/resources/lrm_plan/ethics/ethicscode2001.asp>*. The first copy is provided at no cost.

3. The Code of Ethics of the National Board for Certified Counselors is available 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/extras/pdfs/ethics/nbcc-codeofethics.pdf>. The first copy is provided at no cost.

4. A violation of the provisions of the Code of Ethics constitutes cause for disciplinary action.

Sec. 25. NAC 641A.256 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.256 Disciplinary action: “Unprofessional conduct” interpreted; acts constituting unprofessional conduct. (NRS 641A.160)

1. For the purposes of subsection 7 of NRS 641A.310, the Board will interpret the term “unprofessional conduct” to mean a lack of knowledge, skill or ability in discharging a professional obligation, and to include, without limitation, malpractice and gross negligence.

2. The Board will consider the following acts by a therapist, *counselor*, or intern to constitute unprofessional conduct:

(a) Performing services relating to the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* as an intern outside the scope of an approved plan of internship.

(b) Performing services relating to the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* as a therapist, *counselor*, or intern under a license ~~[or certificate of registration]~~ that has lapsed or been deactivated.

(c) Failing to cooperate with any investigation of a complaint filed against the therapist, *counselor*, or intern, including, without limitation, denying or failing to cooperate with a request for records made by the Board.

3. As used in this section:

(a) “Gross negligence” means conduct in the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* which represents an extreme departure from the standard of care required from a therapist, *counselor*, or intern under the circumstances.

(b) “Malpractice” means conduct in the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling* which falls below the standard of care required from a therapist, *counselor*, or intern under the circumstances.

Sec. 26. NAC 641A.258 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.258 Disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct: Grounds; authority of Board. (NRS 641A.160)

1. Any violation of this chapter or chapter 641A of NRS by a therapist, *counselor*, or intern constitutes unprofessional conduct and subjects the therapist, *counselor*, or intern to disciplinary action by the Board.

2. If a therapist, *counselor*, or intern violates any provision of this chapter or chapter 641A of NRS or engages in any other unprofessional conduct while his license ~~for certificate of registration~~ is in effect, the Board will take disciplinary action against the therapist, *counselor*, or intern, including, without limitation, taking action against the therapist, *counselor*, or intern after his license ~~for certificate of registration~~ has expired or been suspended.

3. If a board or entity in this State or in another state which has issued a license, certificate, registration or other credential to a therapist, *counselor*, or intern for the practice of marriage and family therapy, *clinical professional counseling*, or a related field revokes or suspends the license, certificate, registration or other credential, or takes any other disciplinary action against the therapist, *counselor*, or intern, the revocation, suspension or disciplinary action is a ground for disciplinary action by the Board against the therapist, *counselor*, or intern for unprofessional conduct.

4. The failure of a therapist, *counselor*, or intern to comply with a stipulation, agreement, advisory opinion or order issued by the Board constitutes unprofessional conduct and is a ground for disciplinary action by the Board against the therapist, *counselor*, or intern.

5. As used in this section, “related field” means a field related to the social sciences or the study of the human mind and mental illness, including, without limitation, social work, alcohol and drug abuse counseling, psychology, psychiatry, nursing or medicine.

Sec. 27. NAC 641A.308 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.308 ~~“Certificate of registration”~~ *“Internship License”* defined. (NRS 641A.160) ~~“Certificate of registration”~~ *“Internship License”* means a ~~certificate of registration~~ license as ~~a marriage and family therapist~~ *an* intern issued pursuant to the provisions of NAC 641A.156.

Sec. 28. NAC 641A.311 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.311 “Complainant” defined. (NRS 641A.160)

1. ~~“Complainant”~~ *“Complainant”* means a person who complains to the Board of any act of another person.

2. In any proceeding which the Board initiates, the Board is the ~~["complainant"]~~ *complainant*."

Sec. 29. NAC 641A.313 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.313 "Formal complaint" defined. (NRS 641A.160)

Formal complaint" means a complaint against a therapist, *counselor* or intern prepared by the staff or an investigator pursuant to the provisions of NAC 641A.451.

Sec. 30. NAC 641A.331 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.331 "Presiding officer" defined. (NRS 641A.160)

"Presiding officer" means:

1. The ~~[Chairman]~~ ~~President of the Board;~~ or
- ~~—2. Another member of the Board appointed by the [Chairman]~~ *President*.

Sec. 31. NAC 641A.421 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.421 Informal complaints: Filing of accusation. (NRS 641A.160)

1. A person may file an accusation with the Board, on a form provided by the Board, concerning the acts of or the services provided by a therapist, *counselor* or an intern.

2. The complainant shall include in the accusation information that is sufficiently detailed so as to enable the respondent to prepare a response.

3. Except as otherwise provided in NAC 641A.424, the Board will initially consider any accusation as an informal complaint.

Sec. 32. NAC 641A.424 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.424 Informal complaints: Limited waiver of confidentiality regarding records of client. (NRS 641A.160)

1. If a complainant filing an accusation is the client of and is filing an accusation relating to his treatment by a therapist, *counselor* or intern, the Board will provide the complainant with a form for a limited waiver of confidentiality regarding his records.

2. If the Board provides a limited waiver of confidentiality to a complainant filing an accusation, the staff or legal counsel for the Board will not further review or process the accusation until the limited waiver of confidentiality has been signed by the complainant and returned to the Board.

3. After the complainant signs and returns the limited waiver of confidentiality regarding his records to the Board, the Board will initially consider the accusation as an informal complaint.

Sec. 33. NAC 641A.437 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.437 Informal complaints: Assistance by Health Division of Department of Human Resources. (NRS 641A.160)

If the staff and legal counsel for the Board determine that the preliminary information from its investigation of an informal complaint reasonably indicates that a program in which a therapist, *counselor* or intern is employed or otherwise treating clients may have also violated any statutes or regulations applicable to the operation of the program, the staff and legal counsel for the Board may:

1. Coordinate with and seek the assistance of the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources in the investigation of the alleged violations; and

2. Request the Health Division to share with the staff and legal counsel for the Board any findings made by and information in the possession of the Health Division, to the fullest extent allowable under 42 C.F.R. Part 2.

Sec. 34. NAC 641A.441 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.441 Informal complaints: Request for records or other evidence; failure to comply with request. (NRS 641A.160)

1. During an investigation of an informal complaint, the staff or investigator, if any, may demand that a respondent produce his records or other evidence for inspection or copying, with or without prior notice to the respondent and with or without a subpoena. A respondent shall not deny any such request for records or other evidence if the record or other evidence is not subject to the provisions of 42 C.F.R. Part 2.

2. If the respondent initially refuses or fails to cooperate with a request for records in violation of this section, the Board may immediately suspend his license or ~~certificate of registration~~ *internship license* until the respondent complies with the request for records or other evidence.

3. If the respondent continues to refuse or fail to cooperate with a request for records or other evidence in violation of this section after the Board has suspended his license or ~~certificate of registration~~ *internship license* pursuant to subsection 2, the Board may take such further disciplinary action against the respondent as the Board determines necessary.

Sec. 35. NAC 641A.447 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.447 Informal complaints: Confidentiality. (NRS 641A.160)

1. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the staff, legal counsel for the Board and investigator, if any, shall keep all information gathered during an investigation of a complaint confidential during the investigation. Except as otherwise provided in this section, nothing in this subsection prohibits the staff, legal counsel for the Board or investigator, if any, from:

(a) If the confidential information to be communicated is relevant to the investigation or regulation of the person or program by another agency or board, communicating confidential information to, or otherwise cooperating with, another agency or board that:

(1) Is investigating a person licensed or certified by the Board;

(2) Is investigating a program in which a person licensed or certified by the Board is engaging in the practice of marriage and family therapy *or clinical professional counseling*; or

(3) Regulates or has jurisdiction over the violations of law alleged in a complaint; or

(b) Communicating confidential information to the operator of a program, or his designee, if the complaint to which the confidential information relates:

(1) Is filed against a person who is a member of the staff of that program; and

(2) Alleges the existence of a condition which poses a significant hazard to the health or safety of the clients and staff of, and the visitors to, the program.

2. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, information which is subject to the standards of confidentiality set forth in 42 C.F.R. Part 2 may be communicated by the Board, staff, legal counsel for the Board or investigator, if any, only if such communication does not violate those standards of confidentiality.