

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

### **Q. Is Candidate Status available for MFT applicants, or will applicants need to be registered as a “Registered Psychotherapist” in order to complete PDSE hours for licensure?**

A. As of November 1, 2011, Candidate status for MFT applicants will be available. Applicants must submit a completed exam application package, non-refundable application processing fee, and official transcript from an approved program. If education is not approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), education equivalency forms must be completed and submitted to the Program/Board Office for review with the completed application packet. Candidate status will NOT be approved until the MFT Program/Board evaluates and deems the education program equivalent.

### **Q. Why apply for an LMFT license versus the other mental health licensures offered in Colorado?**

A. LMFT is a specialized licensure in marriage and family therapy and requires training and experience specifically in/with families, couples, etc.

### **Q. How many hours of post-degree supervised experience do applicants need?**

A. The minimum requirements are:

1. The two years of post-master's practice in individual and marriage and family therapy under supervision must include at least 2,000 hours of practice, including at least 1,500 hours of face-to-face direct client contact, 1,000 of which shall be with couples and families for the purpose of diagnosis, assessment, and intervention obtained in such a manner that they are reasonably uniformly distributed over a minimum of 24 months.
2. The one year of post-doctoral practice in individual and marriage and family therapy under supervision must include at least 1,500 hours of face-to-face direct client contact, including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face direct client contact with couples and families for the purpose of diagnosis, assessment, and intervention obtained in such a manner that they are reasonably uniformly distributed over a minimum of 12 months.
3. For each 1,000 hours of supervised practice in individual and marriage and family therapy, applicants must receive a minimum of 50 hours of supervision. A minimum of 25 of the 50 hours must be face-to-face individual supervision. The remaining hours up to the 50 hours may be by group supervision. No other modes of supervision will be accepted.

### **Q. Which exam does the State Board require for licensure and how often is the examination given?**

A. The Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) developed and owns the exam that Colorado requires for licensure. Professional Examination Services (PES) administers the exam electronically during four (4) month long windows each year.

### **Q. Who can supervise applicants for licensure?**

A. An approved AAMFT supervisor or Colorado Licensed MFT may supervise applicants. Other supervisors must be approved by the Board.

### **Q. What does the Board look for when approving supervisors who are not LMFTs?**

A. A supervisor should be licensed under the Mental Health Act at the highest level and have specific training in the marriage and family area, with at least 5 of the last 10 years of experience working with couples and families. All requests for approval of supervisors are considered on a case-by-case basis. Approval must be requested and received before starting supervision.

### **Q. How long do applicants have to complete all requirements for licensure?**

A. Five years from the application receipt in the Division.

### **Q. Does Colorado have reciprocity with any state?**

A. No. Colorado has "licensure by endorsement." Please see the application packet and directions for endorsement at: [www.dora.state.co.us/mental-health/mft/MFTendorsement.pdf](http://www.dora.state.co.us/mental-health/mft/MFTendorsement.pdf).

**Q. How often may a marriage and family therapist license applicant take the Jurisprudence Examination?**

A. The Jurisprudence Examination may be taken as often as the applicant needs to take it in order to pass. There are no restrictions on the number of times it may be taken.

**Q. When are results of the Jurisprudence Examination reported to the applicant?**

A. The Office of Licensing within the Department of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Registrations, sends notice to applicants who fail the Jurisprudence Examination with information on downloading and retaking the examination. Notice may be by email or letter.

**Q. When do applicants/therapists need to be listed in the Database of Registered Psychotherapists?**

A. MFT applicants who are completing their two-year post degree experience and supervision must either register as a candidate OR become listed as a registered psychotherapist in the Database of Registered Psychotherapists.