



County of San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health

INFORMATION NOTICE 13-10

Date: 10/25/13

To: Department of Behavioral Health Staff
Department of Behavioral Health Contract Agencies

From: CaSonya Thomas, MPA, CHC, Director

Subject: Marriage and Family Therapist Intern Experience Requirements

Introduction The California Office of Administrative Law recently approved regulatory action to amend the California Code of Regulations (CCR) revising experience requirements for an applicant seeking licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT). The necessary amendment will now make these experience requirements consistent with statutory changes under Senate Bill 363. This regulatory action became effective on October 1, 2013.

Purpose This notice provides updated experience requirements necessary for a MFT Intern, or pre-licensed professional, as defined by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS).

Definition **Registered Marriage and Family Therapist Intern:** For the purposes of this information notice, a Registered MFT Intern is defined, as indicated by the BBS, as someone who is an unlicensed professional and is:

- Post-graduate employee who holds a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy or the equivalent Master's program for Professional Clinical Counselors
- Registered with the BBS
- Working to obtain required hours to achieve full licensure

MFT Intern Experience Requirements for Licensure The California Business and Professions Code (B&P) was revised to provide changes to the MFT Intern experience requirements towards licensing and regulation under the BBS. The BBS has now amended the CCR to increase clarity to both consumers and individuals who are seeking licensure as an MFT by clarifying the experience needed to obtain a license. Changes to the CCR are as follows:

- MFT Interns are allowed to obtain up to 500 hours toward licensure experience requirements performing administrative activities and client centered advocacy, as defined below.

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MFT Intern Experience Requirements for Licensure (continued)

- Administrative activities consist of:
 - Administering and evaluating psychological tests
 - Writing clinical report
 - Writing progress notes
 - Writing process notes
 - Client centered advocacy as defined is researching, identifying, and accessing resources or other activities related to obtaining or providing services and support for clients or groups of clients receiving psychotherapy or counseling.
 - MFT Interns can gain no more than 1000 hours in direct supervision contact, professional enrichment (maximum 250 hours), and personal psychotherapy (maximum 100 hours).
 - Direct supervisor contact is defined as one “unit” of supervision which is one hour of individual supervision or two hours of group supervision.
 - Professional enrichment is defined as workshops, seminars, training sessions or conferences directly related to marriage and family therapy attended by the applicant and approved by the applicant’s supervisor.
 - Personal Psychotherapy attended by the applicant with a licensed professional.
 - MFT Interns will be able to obtain more than 250 hours of experience for actual time spent counseling or crisis counseling on the telephone. However, an MFT Intern cannot obtain more than 375 hours of experience in accordance to B&P Section 4980.43(a)(11).
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Reference

California Business and Professions Code, Sections [4980.01\(a\)](#), [4980.43\(a\)\(9\)](#), [4980.43\(a\)\(11\)](#), [4999.20\(a\)\(3\)](#)
[California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 18, Article 4](#), Sections 1833, 1833(a)(4)
[Senate Bill 363](#), Marriage and Family Therapists
DBH, Standard Practice Manual, CLP0806 – [Clinical Supervision for Licensure Policy](#)

Questions

Questions regarding this Information Notice shall be directed to the Department of Behavioral Health, Office of Compliance at (909) 382-3083.
